

MARVEL

PALMIOTTI
GRAY
LINSNER

WOLVERINE & THE BLACK CAT™

Claws II



LINSNER
2010

WOLVERINE & THE BLACK CAT

スラム Ⅱ





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WOLVERINE & BLACK CAT: CLAWS 2

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Two of the world's sharpest heroes, Wolverine and Black Cat, were thrown together by the dastardly wiles of super villain Arcade and his partner, The White Rabbit.

Using a canny combination of cunning and cutting, the taloned twosome came out on top, ditching the bad guys in the isolated Antarctic wilds of The Savage Land. Now, they find themselves in a swank New York City restaurant, ready to enjoy some well deserved peace and quiet...

WOLVERINE & THE BLACK CAT

claws II



MARVEL

**LIMITED
SERIES**

1 OF 3

**PALMIOTTI
LINSNER
BROWN**

WOLVERINE & THE BLACK CAT

CLAWS™



LINSNER
2010

New York City. Today.



LOGAN, YOU DON'T GET DESSERT IF YOU DON'T FINISH YOUR DINNER.

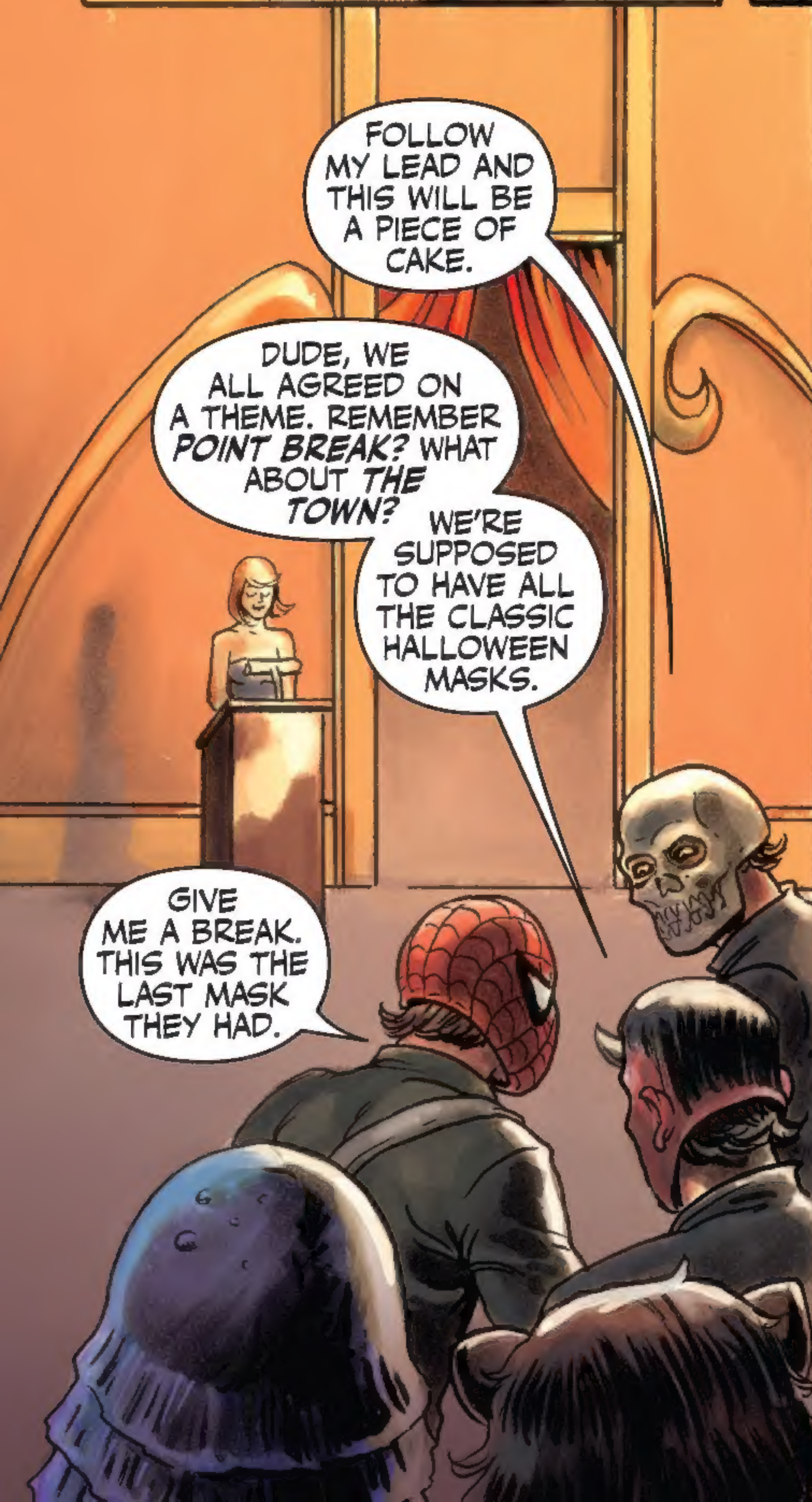
I DIDN'T ORDER DESSERT, FELICIA.



PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT AND IT WILL BE A DESSERT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET.



COME ON, HAIRBALL. DON'T MAKE ME BEG.



FOLLOW MY LEAD AND THIS WILL BE A PIECE OF CAKE.

DUDE, WE ALL AGREED ON A THEME. REMEMBER POINT BREAK? WHAT ABOUT THE TOWN?

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE ALL THE CLASSIC HALLOWEEN MASKS.

GIVE ME A BREAK. THIS WAS THE LAST MASK THEY HAD.



SIRS, EXCUSE ME...

UNLESS YOU HAVE A RESERVATION, I AM AFRAID I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO--

ARE YOU BLIND?



SPREAD OUT AND BLOCK THE EXITS. MAKE SURE NO ONE LEAVES.



ISN'T THIS BETTER THAN BROODING?

AFTER THAT BUSINESS WITH ARCADE, WHITE RABBIT, THE ROBOTS, VOLCANOES, GIANT FISH MONSTER AND THEN THE TRIP TO THE SAVAGE LAND, WE DESERVE A LITTLE R&R--DON'T YOU AGREE?

I WAS THERE. LET'S JUST RELAX AND ENJOY THE MEAL. SOUND GOOD?



DEAL.

THANKS.



OKAY, EVERYONE.

THIS IS A ROBBERY. DO AS I SAY AND NO ONE GETS HURT!



OH REALLY.

DAMN, I JUST STOLE THIS DRESS.

CLAWS 2

BACK AND FORTH

YOU WANT ME TO HANDLE THIS, LOGAN?

JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE, DARLIN'. THIS SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG.

Felicia Hardy, A.K.A. Black Cat. World renowned burglar.

Logan, A.K.A. the X-Man Wolverine.

JIMMY PALMIOTTI & JUSTIN GRAY
Writers

JOSEPH MICHAEL LINSNER
Artist

DAN BROWN & NICK FILARDI
with Ian Hannin
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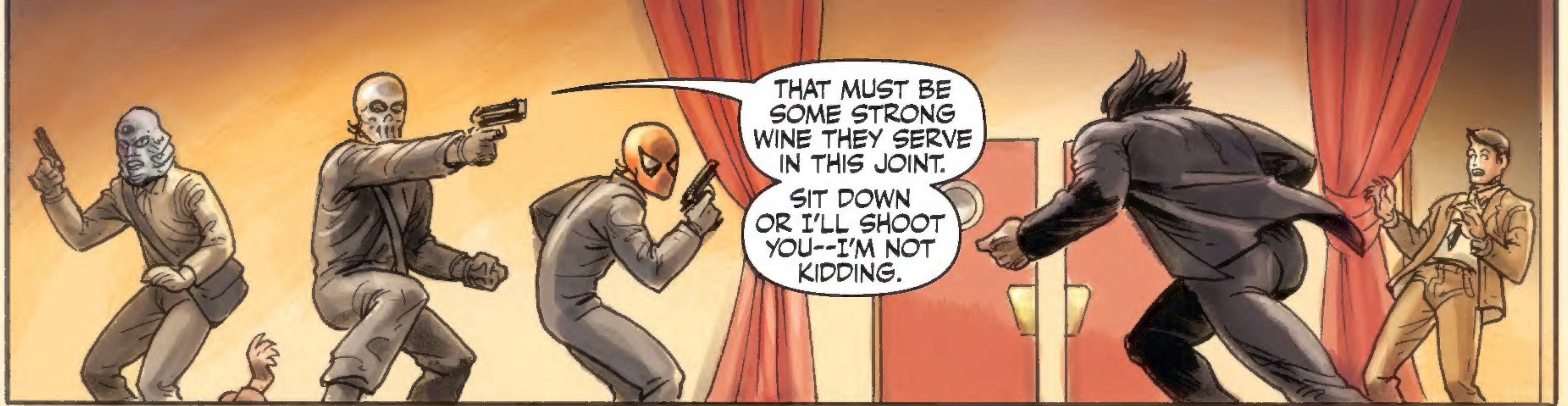
AXEL ALONSO
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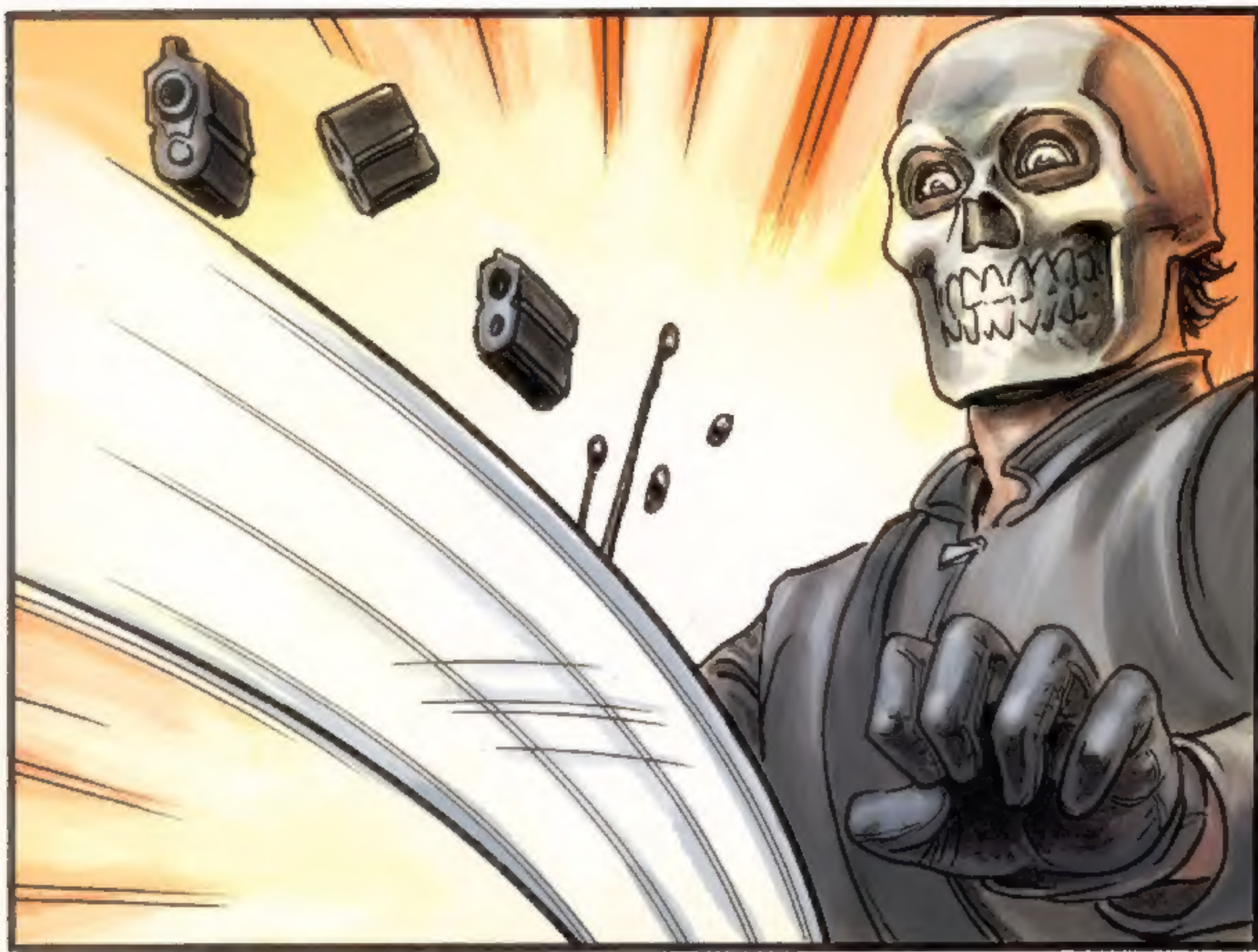
JOE QUESADA
Chief Creative Officer

DAN BUCKLEY
Publisher

ALAN FINE
Exec. Producer









THAT'S GOTTA HURT.

OH YEAH. WHY DIDN'T HE JUST SHOOT SOME WEBBING OR SOMETHING?

FUNNY.



UGHhhh... MY BACK.

MY CART!

LOOK WHAT THAT SPECTACULAR MORON DID TO MY CART! I WANT HIM ARRESTED!

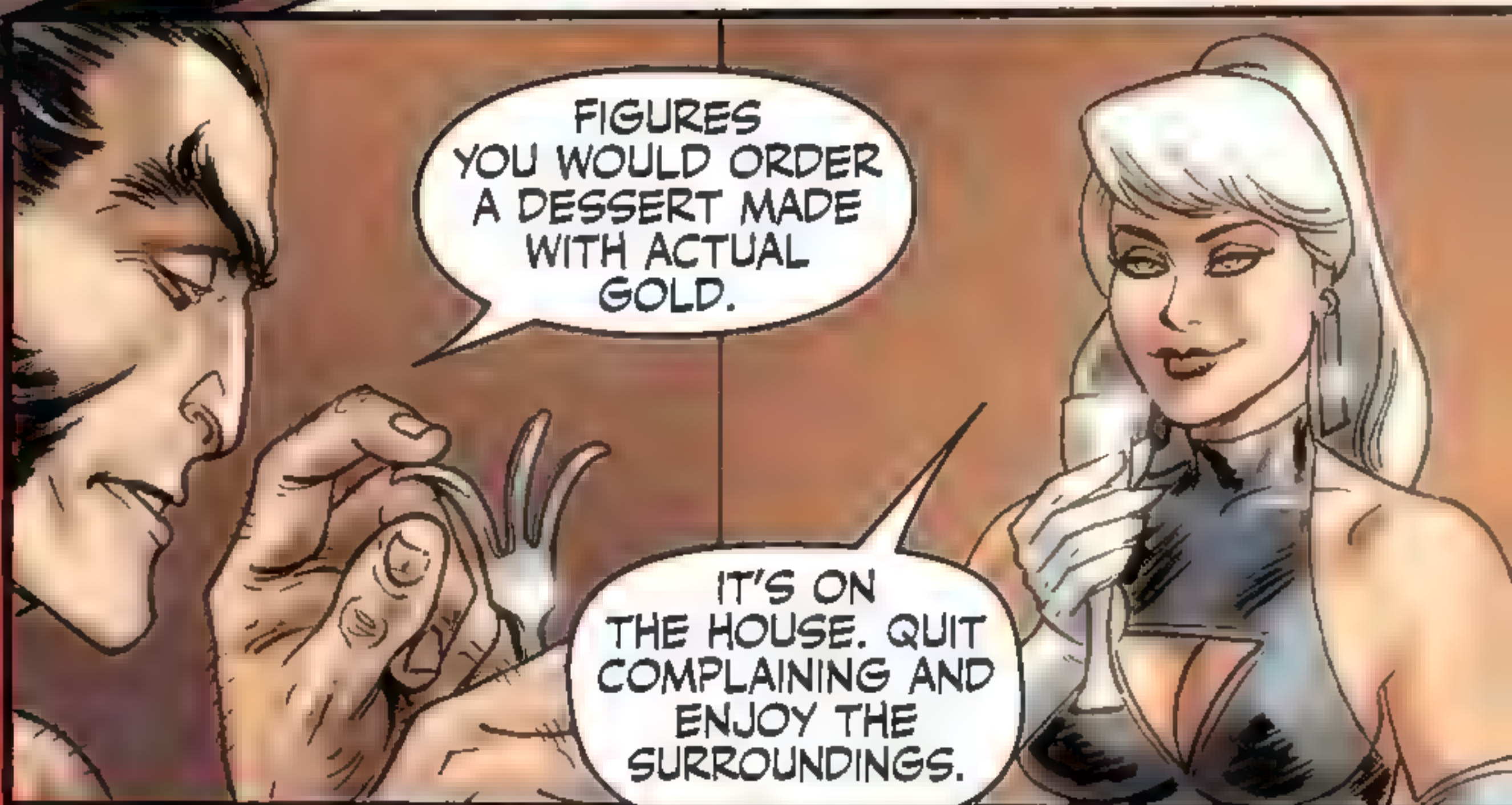
SORRY, I'M OFF DUTY.



I WOULD PERSONALLY LIKE TO THANK YOU TWO. DINNER IS ON THE HOUSE, AS WELL AS ANY DESSERT YOU WOULD LIKE.

HOW NICE. HOW ABOUT THE SERENDIPITY FIVE?

EXCELLENT CHOICE! A MAGNIFICENT BLEND OF 28 COCOAS, INFUSED WITH 8 GRAMS OF EDIBLE GOLD. PLEASE HAVE A SEAT IN OUR PRIVATE ROOM AND IT WILL BE PREPARED AND READY IN 30 MINUTES.



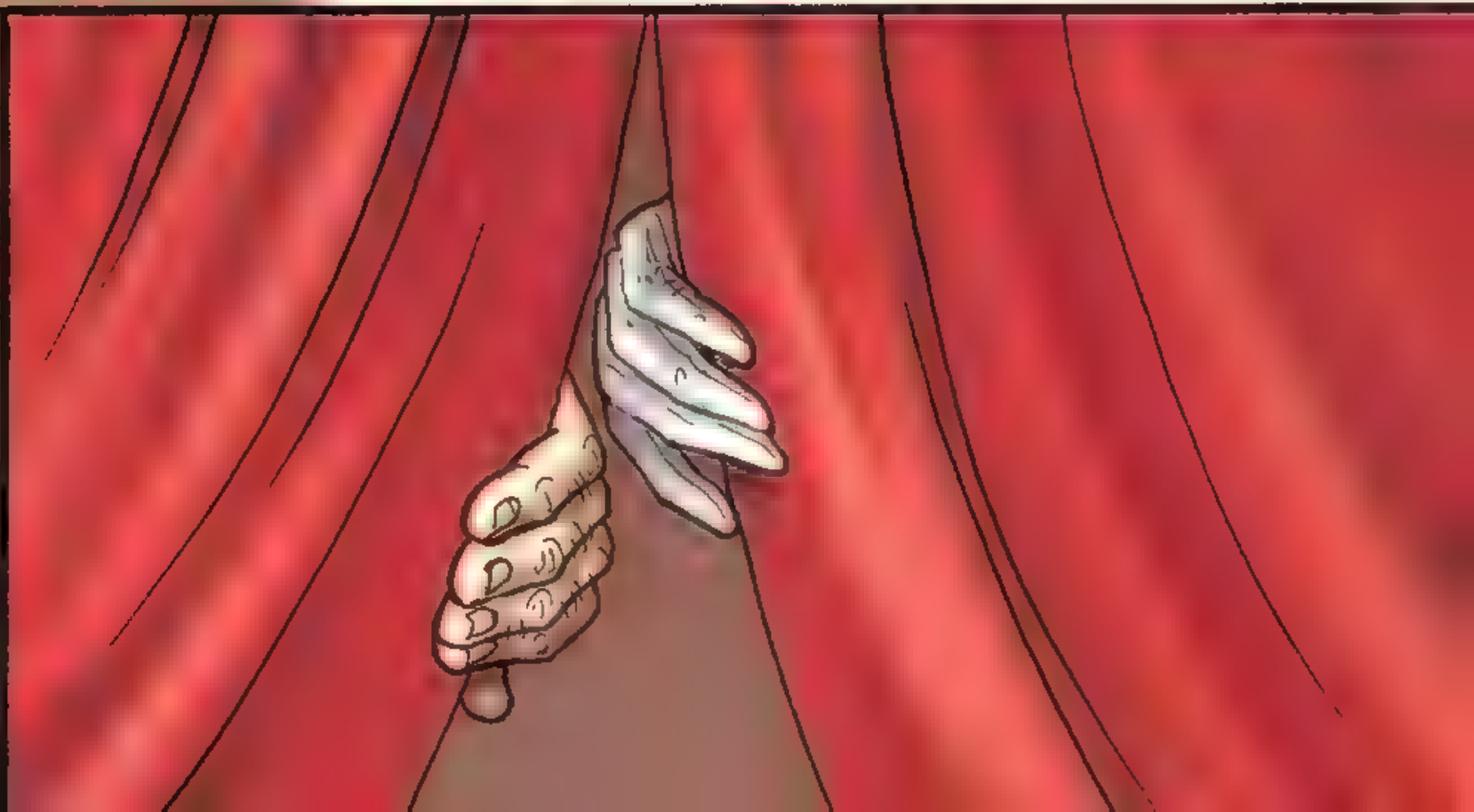
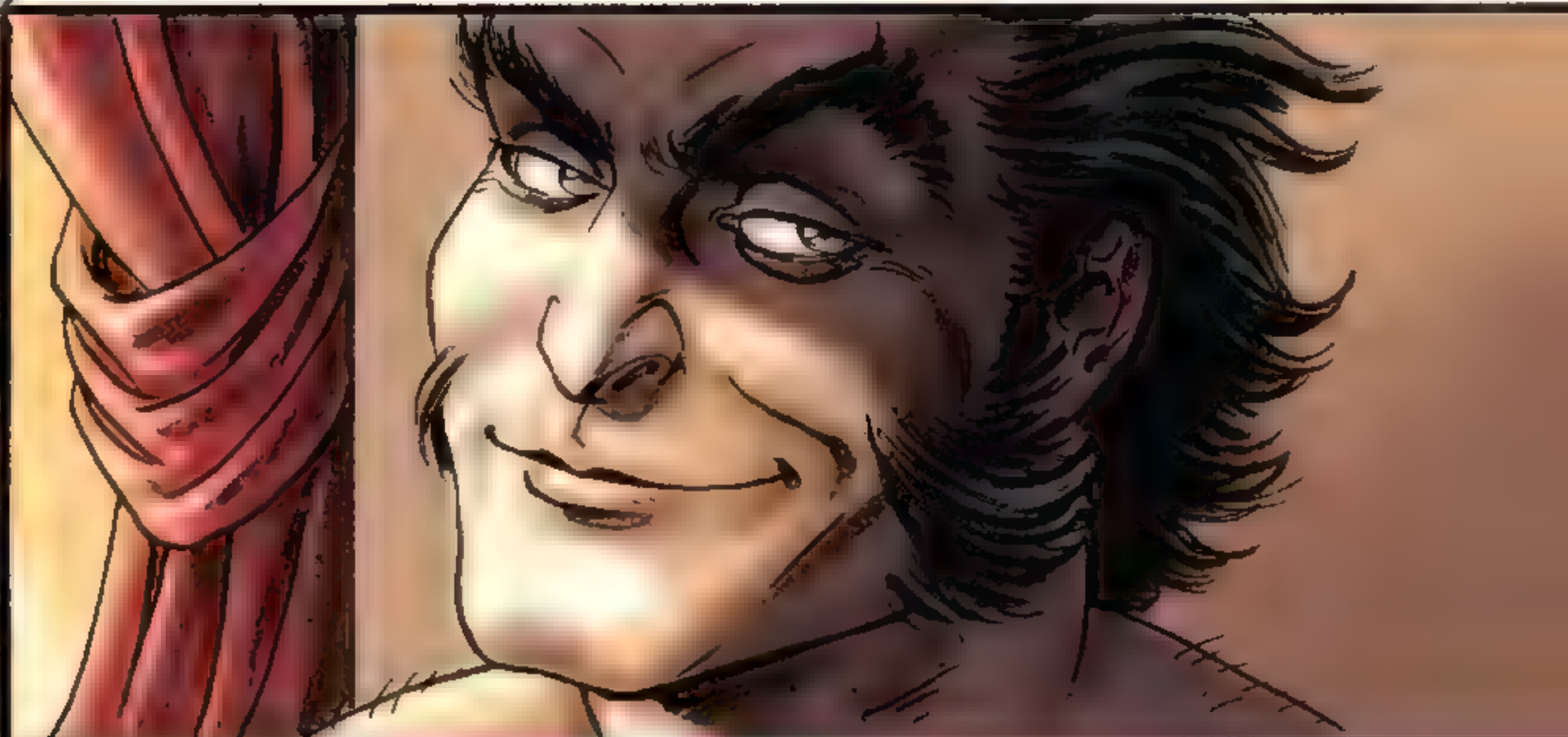
FIGURES YOU WOULD ORDER A DESSERT MADE WITH ACTUAL GOLD.

IT'S ON THE HOUSE. QUIT COMPLAINING AND ENJOY THE SURROUNDINGS.

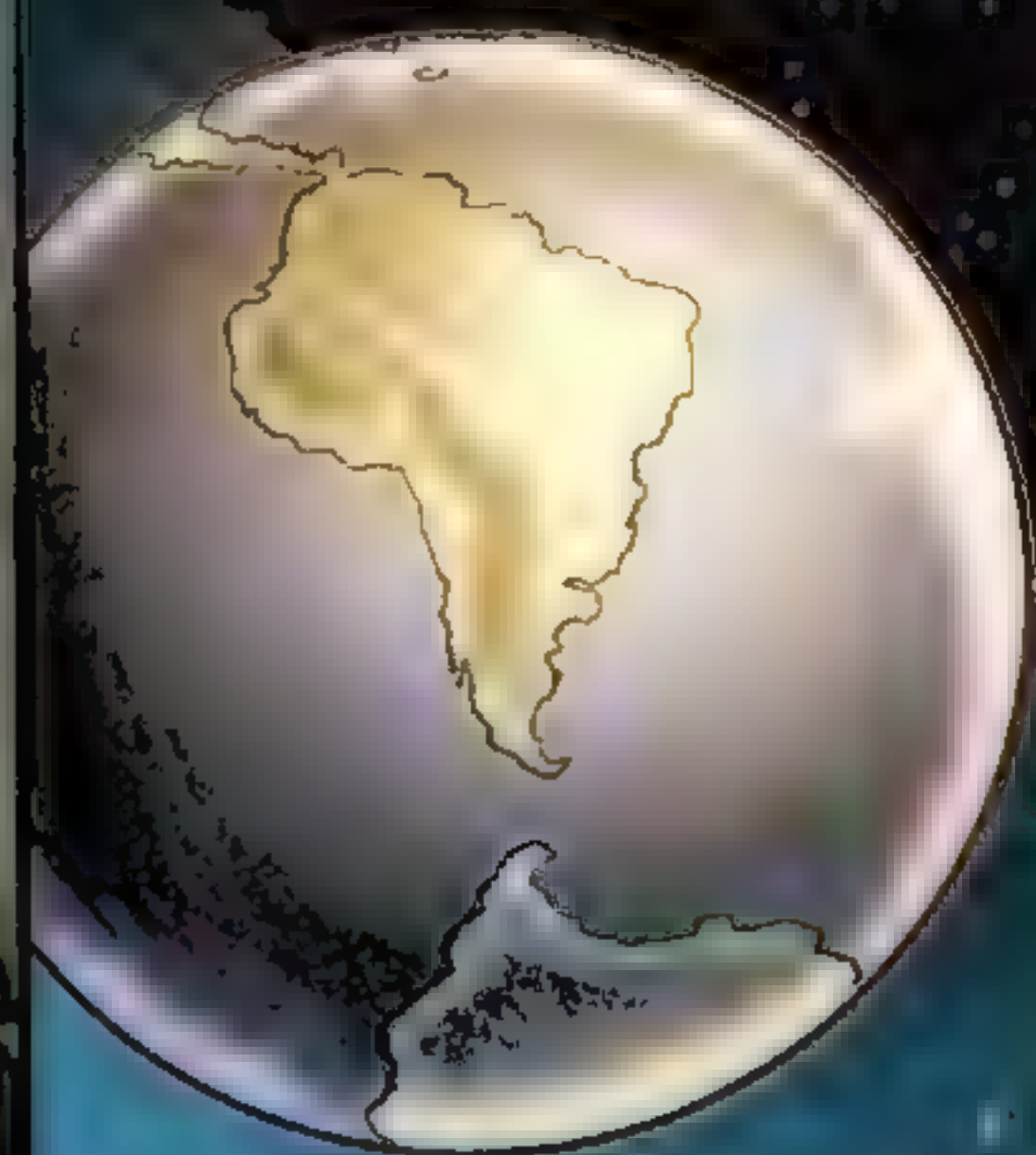


HALF AN HOUR TO MAKE--- SHEESH, WHAT'RE WE SUPPOSED TO DO TILL THEN?

REALLY, LOGAN...USE YOUR IMAGINATION.

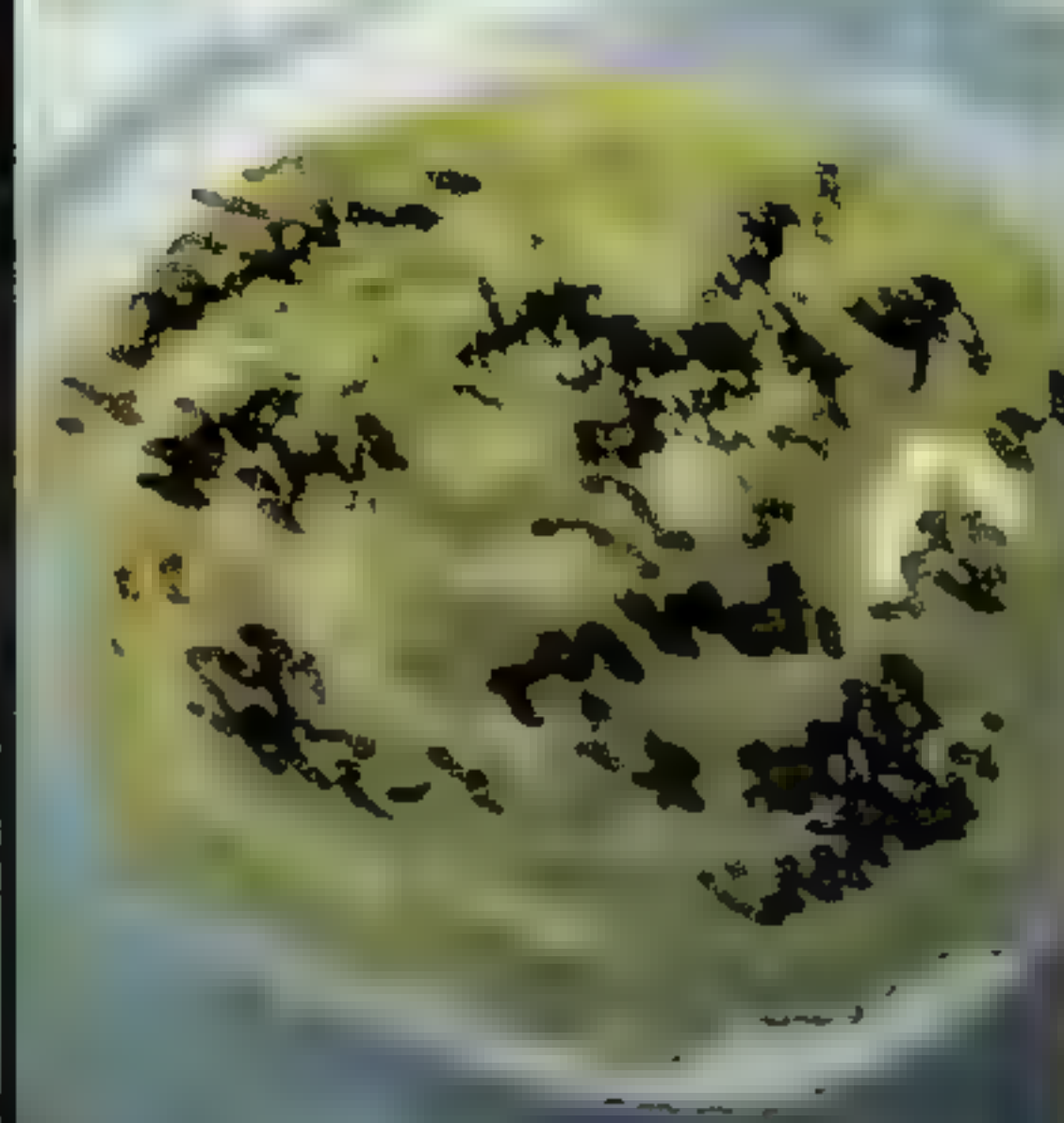


Meanwhile...

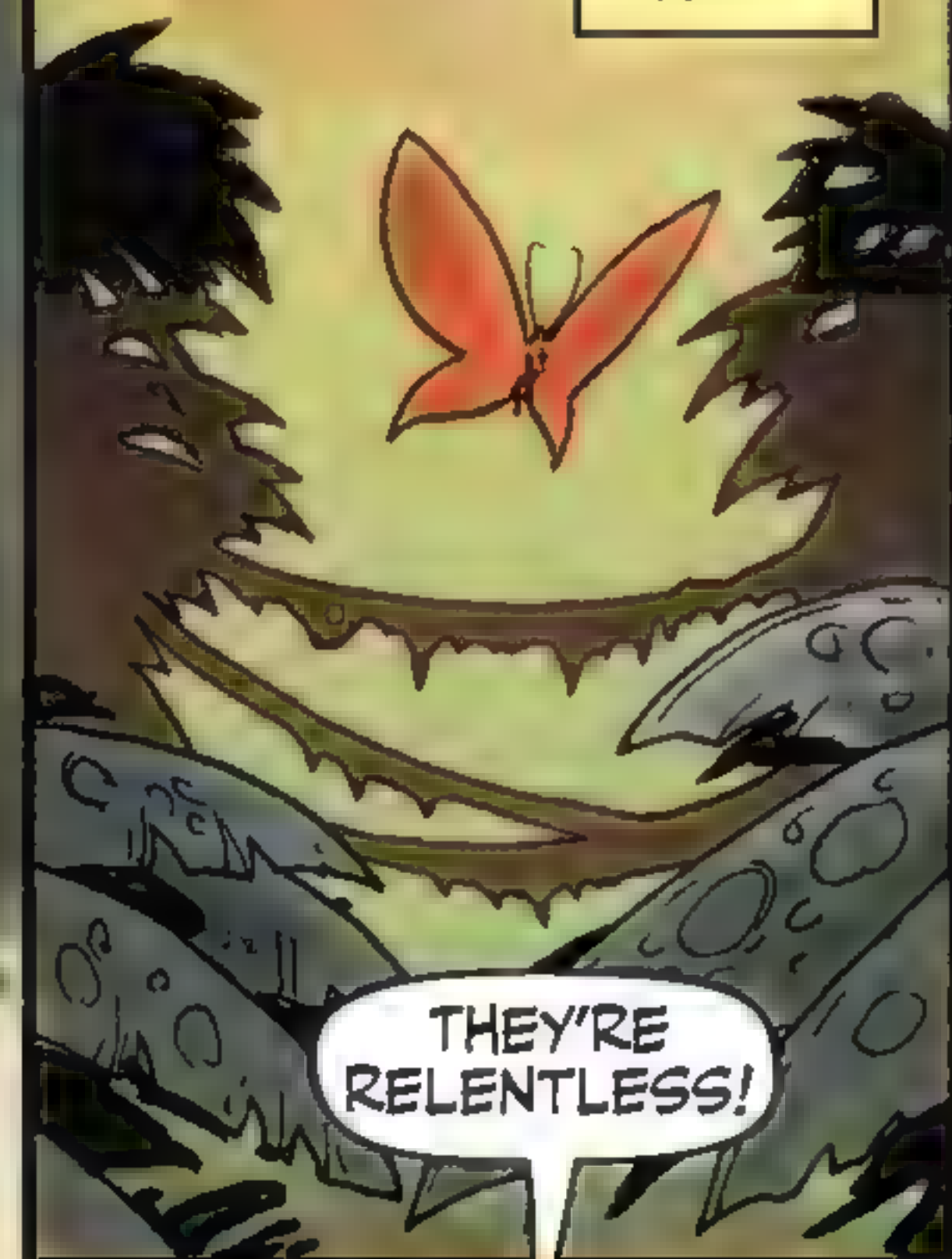


...very south
of the city.

The aforementioned
dangerous region
known as...



...The
Savage
Land.



THEY'RE
RELENTLESS!

A place that time
has forgotten and
few have survived.



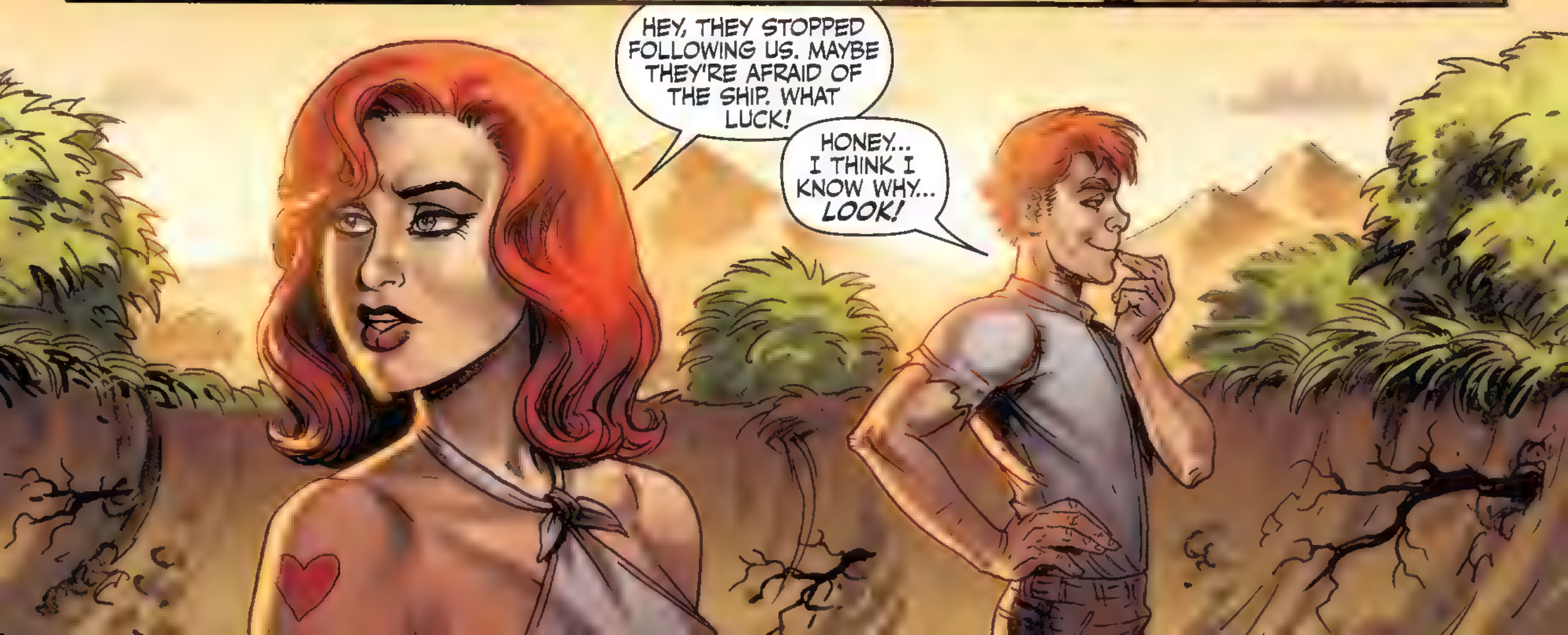
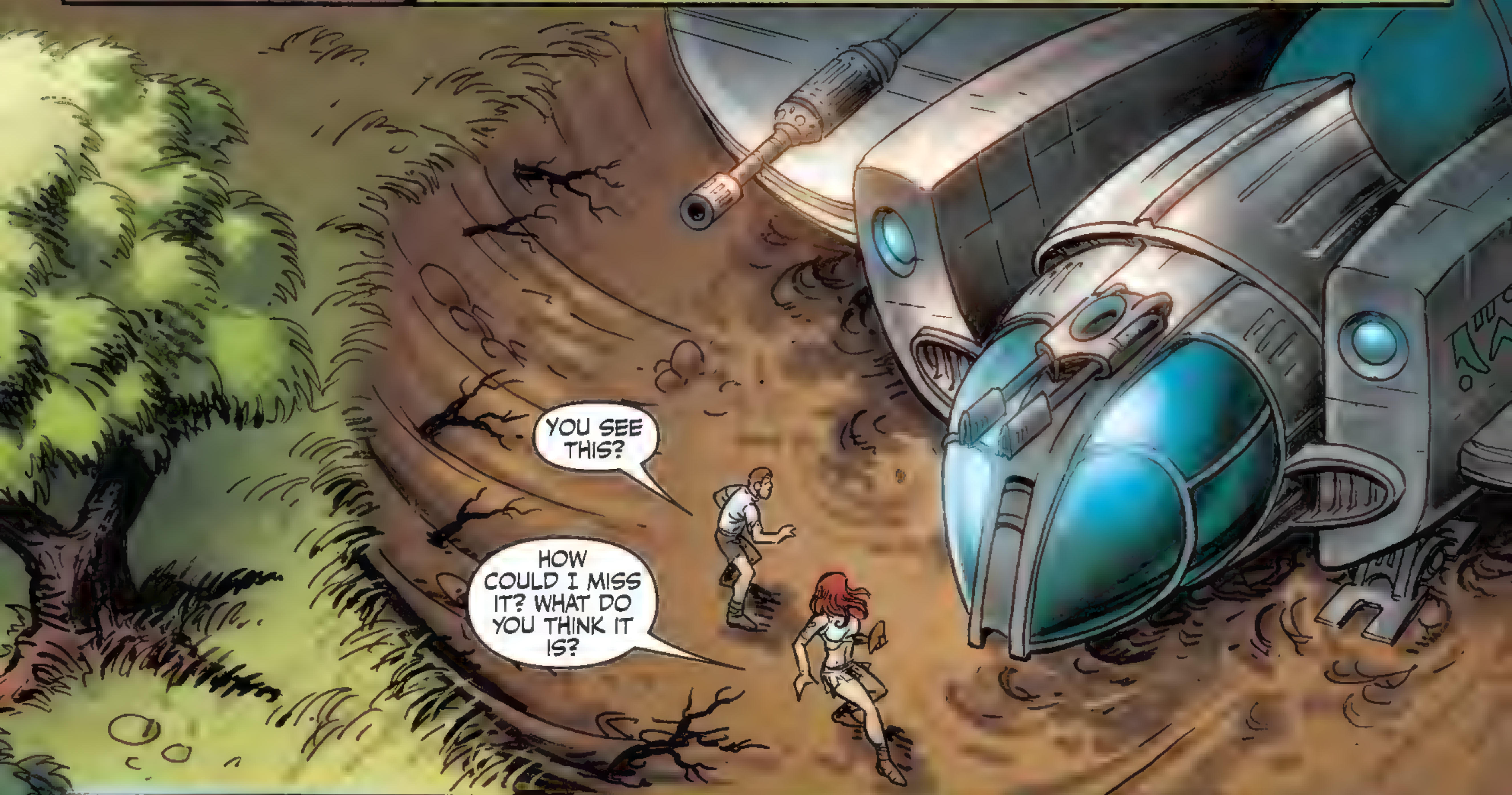
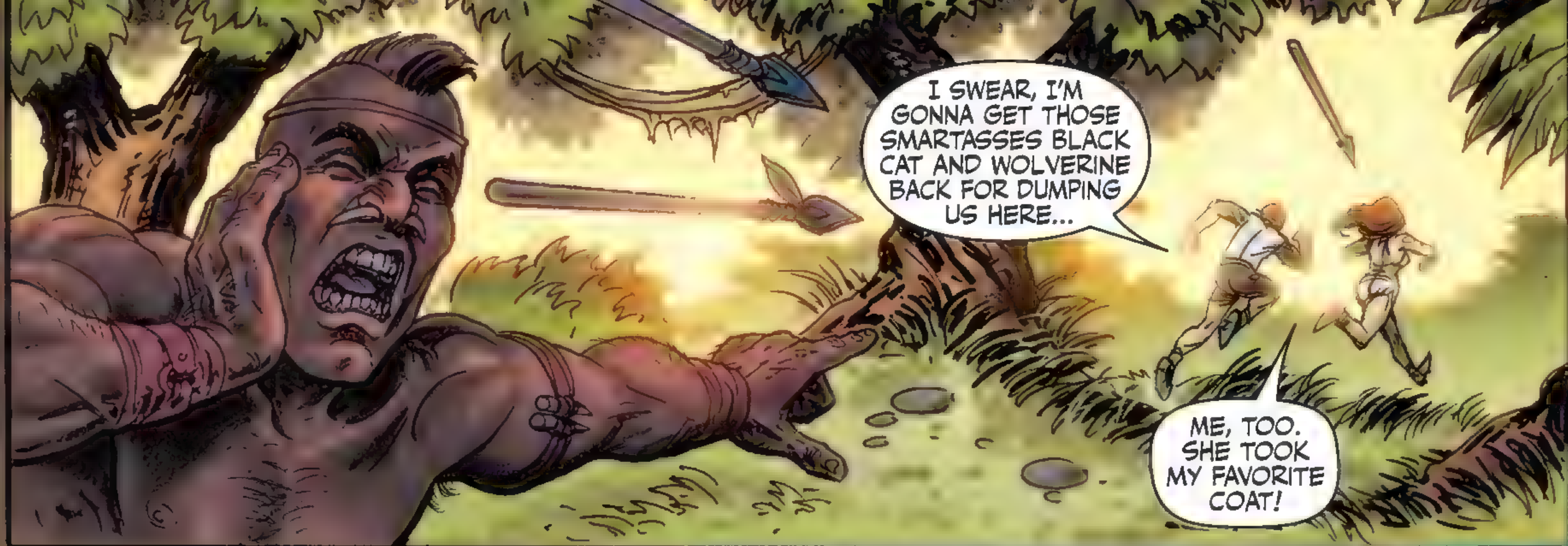
THIS
IS ALL YOUR
FAULT, WHITE
RABBIT!

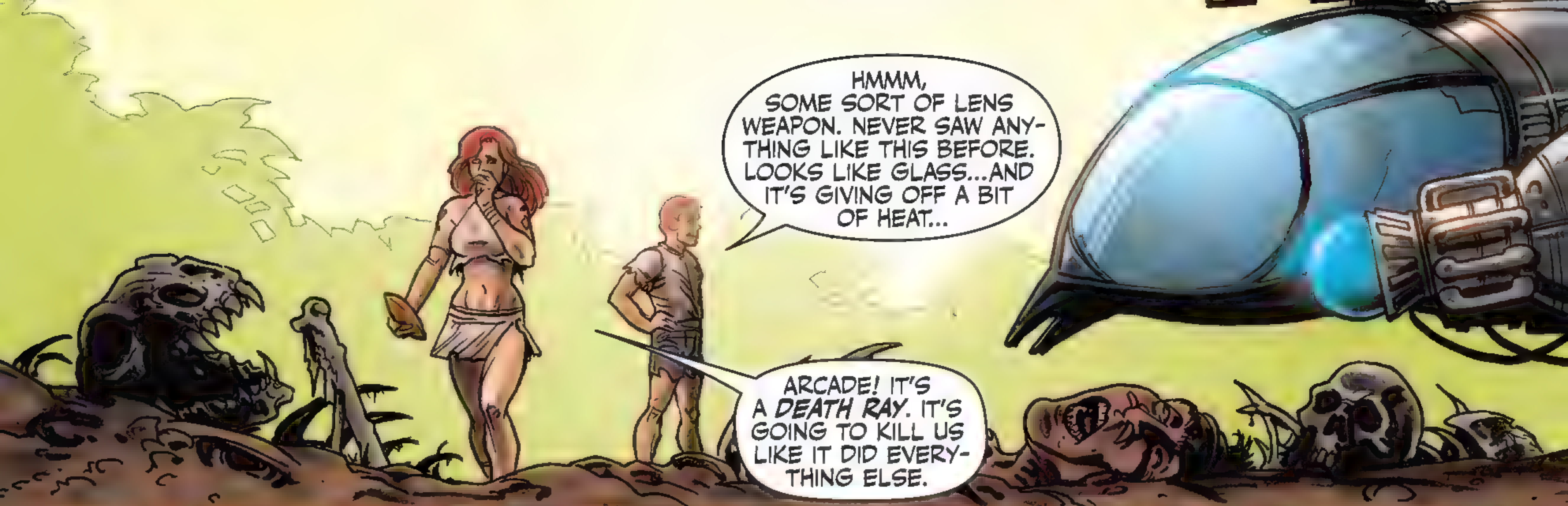
DON'T
BLAME ME
FOR THIS,
ARCADE!

WHO
SHOULD I BLAME
THEN? WHO TOLD
YOU TO TAKE THE
JEWEL FROM THEIR
DEITY'S EYE
SOCKET?



I LEFT
ONE EYE IN,
DIDN'T I?





HMMM,
SOME SORT OF LENS
WEAPON. NEVER SAW ANY-
THING LIKE THIS BEFORE.
LOOKS LIKE GLASS...AND
IT'S GIVING OFF A BIT
OF HEAT...

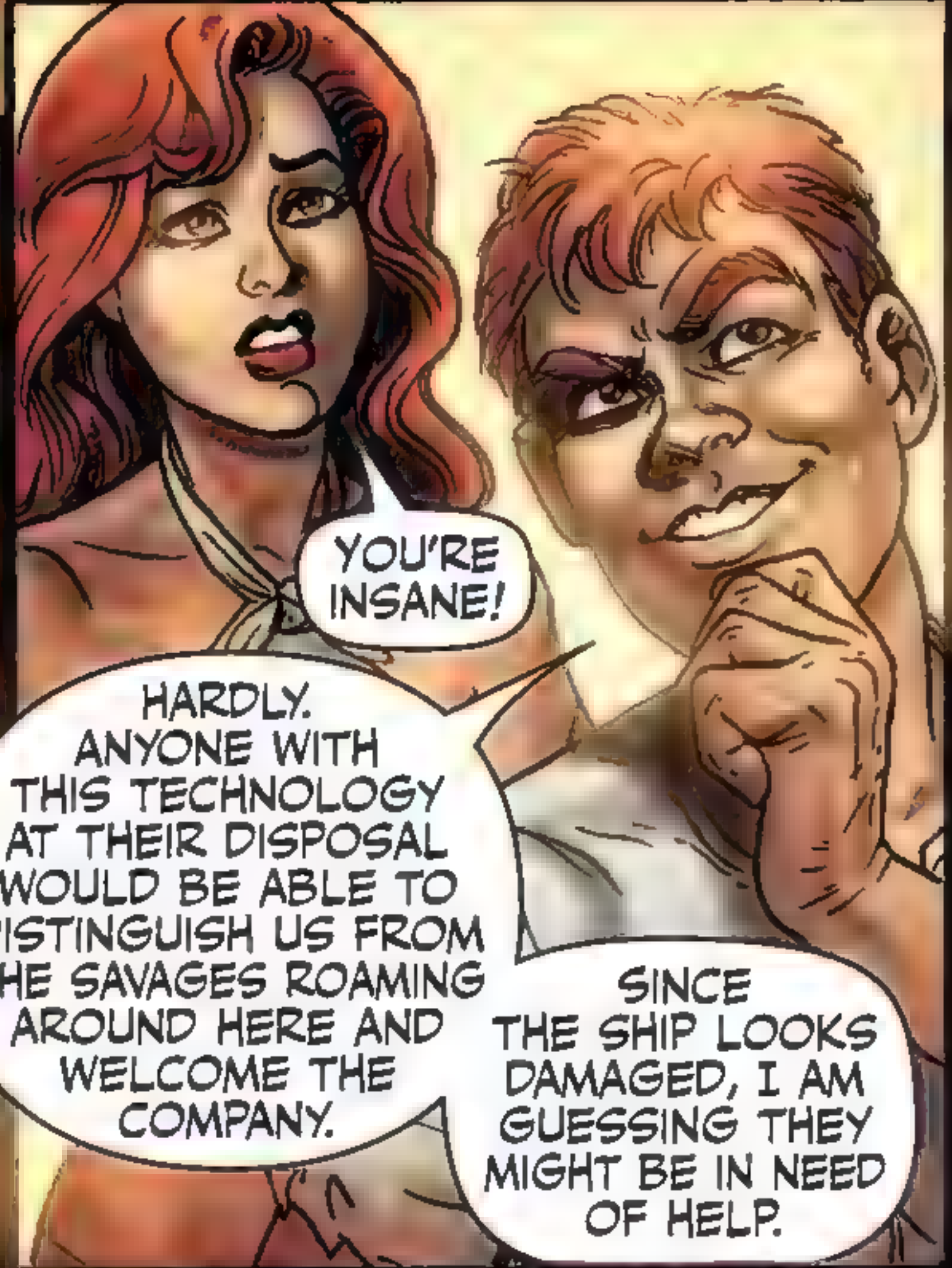
ARCADE! IT'S
A *DEATH RAY*. IT'S
GOING TO KILL US
LIKE IT DID EVERY-
THING ELSE.



HELLO IN
THERE. MY NAME IS
ARCADE. I'M ONE OF
THE MOST BRILLIANT
MINDS ON THE
PLANET.



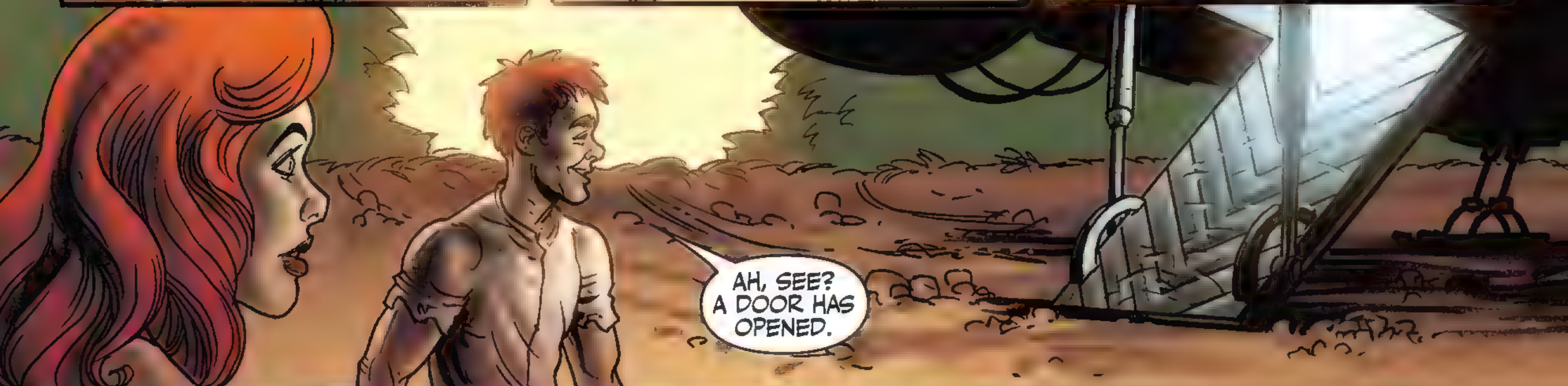
IF YOU
CAN UNDERSTAND
ME, I WOULD VERY
MUCH LIKE TO MEET
AND TALK TO
YOU.



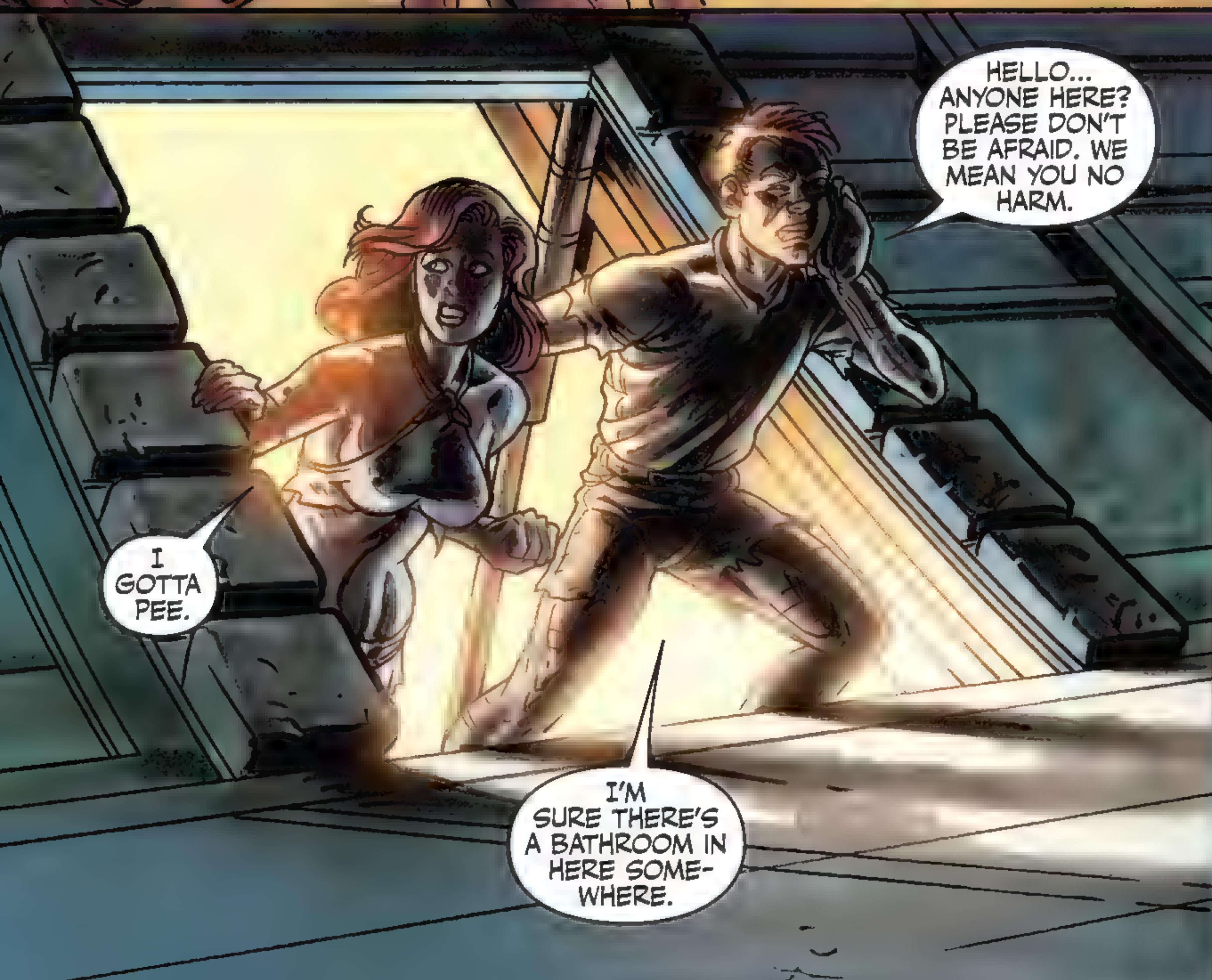
YOU'RE
INSANE!

HARDLY.
ANYONE WITH
THIS TECHNOLOGY
AT THEIR DISPOSAL
WOULD BE ABLE TO
DISTINGUISH US FROM
THE SAVAGES ROAMING
AROUND HERE AND
WELCOME THE
COMPANY.

SINCE
THE SHIP LOOKS
DAMAGED, I AM
GUESSING THEY
MIGHT BE IN NEED
OF HELP.



AH, SEE?
A DOOR HAS
OPENED.



HELLO...
ANYONE HERE?
PLEASE DON'T
BE AFRAID. WE
MEAN YOU NO
HARM.

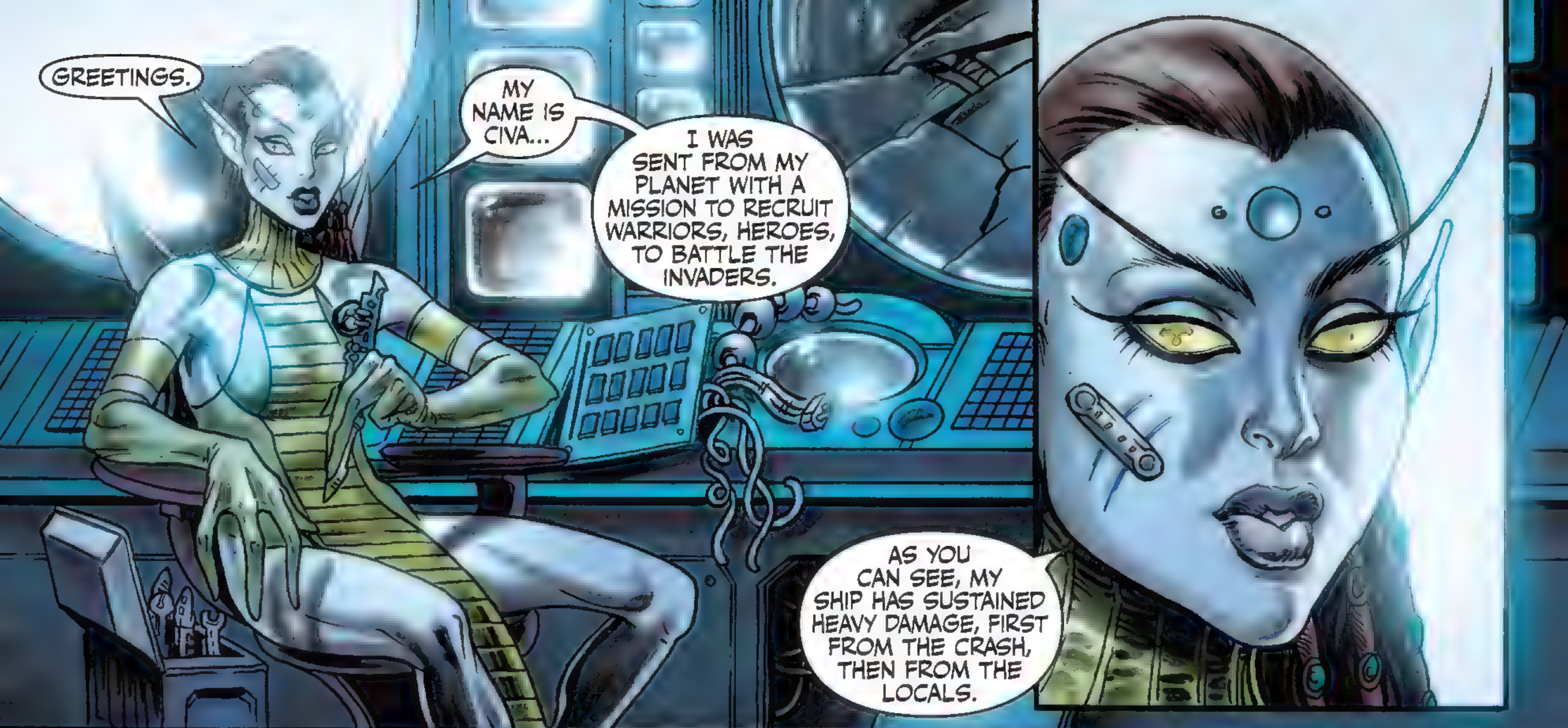
I
GOTTA
PEE.

I'M
SURE THERE'S
A BATHROOM IN
HERE SOME-
WHERE.



THOOM!

TOO
LATE.

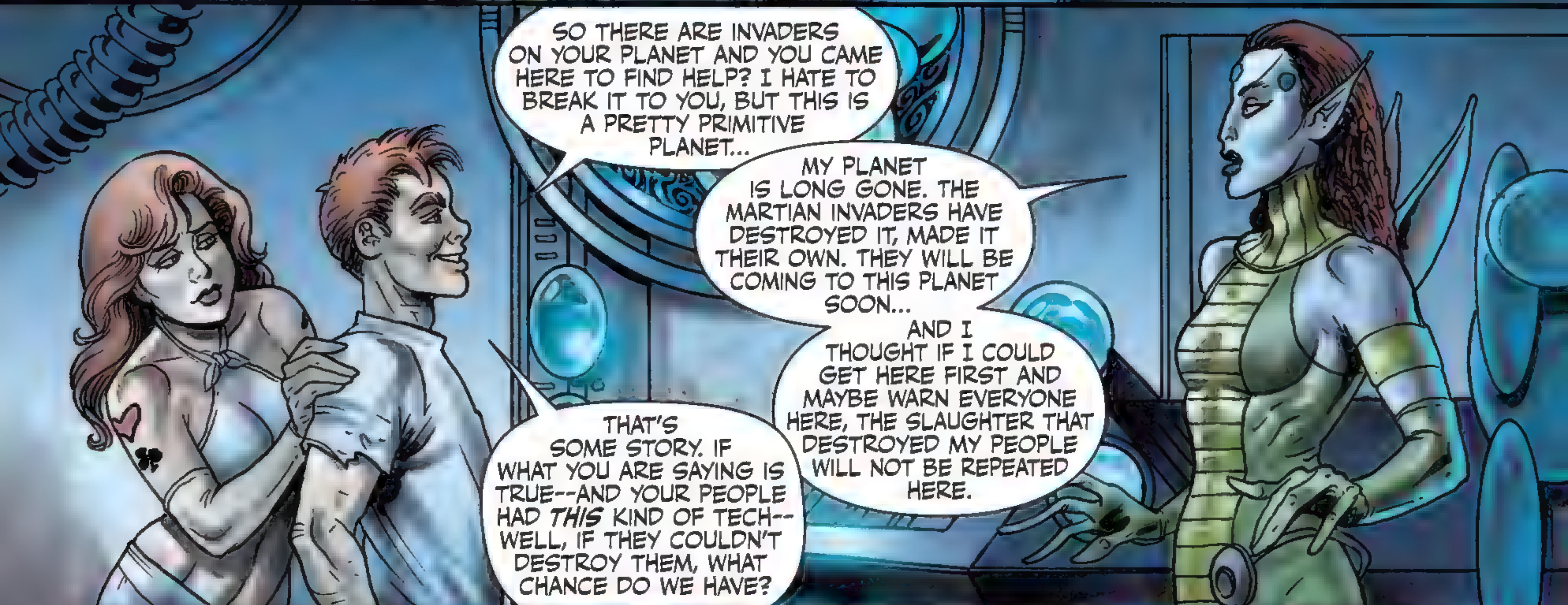


GREETINGS.

MY NAME IS CIVA...

I WAS SENT FROM MY PLANET WITH A MISSION TO RECRUIT WARRIORS, HEROES, TO BATTLE THE INVADERS.

AS YOU CAN SEE, MY SHIP HAS SUSTAINED HEAVY DAMAGE, FIRST FROM THE CRASH, THEN FROM THE LOCALS.

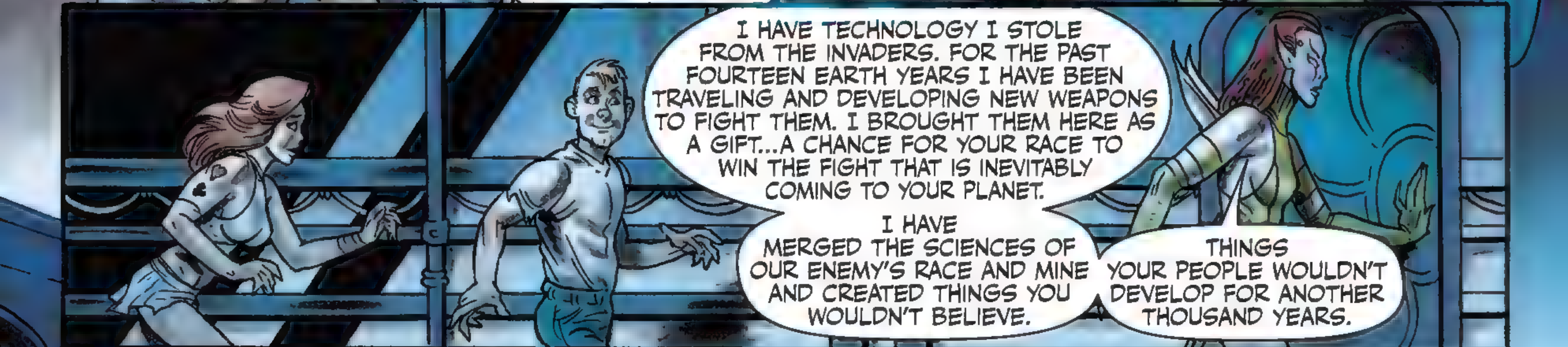


SO THERE ARE INVADERS ON YOUR PLANET AND YOU CAME HERE TO FIND HELP? I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT THIS IS A PRETTY PRIMITIVE PLANET...

MY PLANET IS LONG GONE. THE MARTIAN INVADERS HAVE DESTROYED IT, MADE IT THEIR OWN. THEY WILL BE COMING TO THIS PLANET SOON...

AND I THOUGHT IF I COULD GET HERE FIRST AND MAYBE WARN EVERYONE HERE, THE SLAUGHTER THAT DESTROYED MY PEOPLE WILL NOT BE REPEATED HERE.

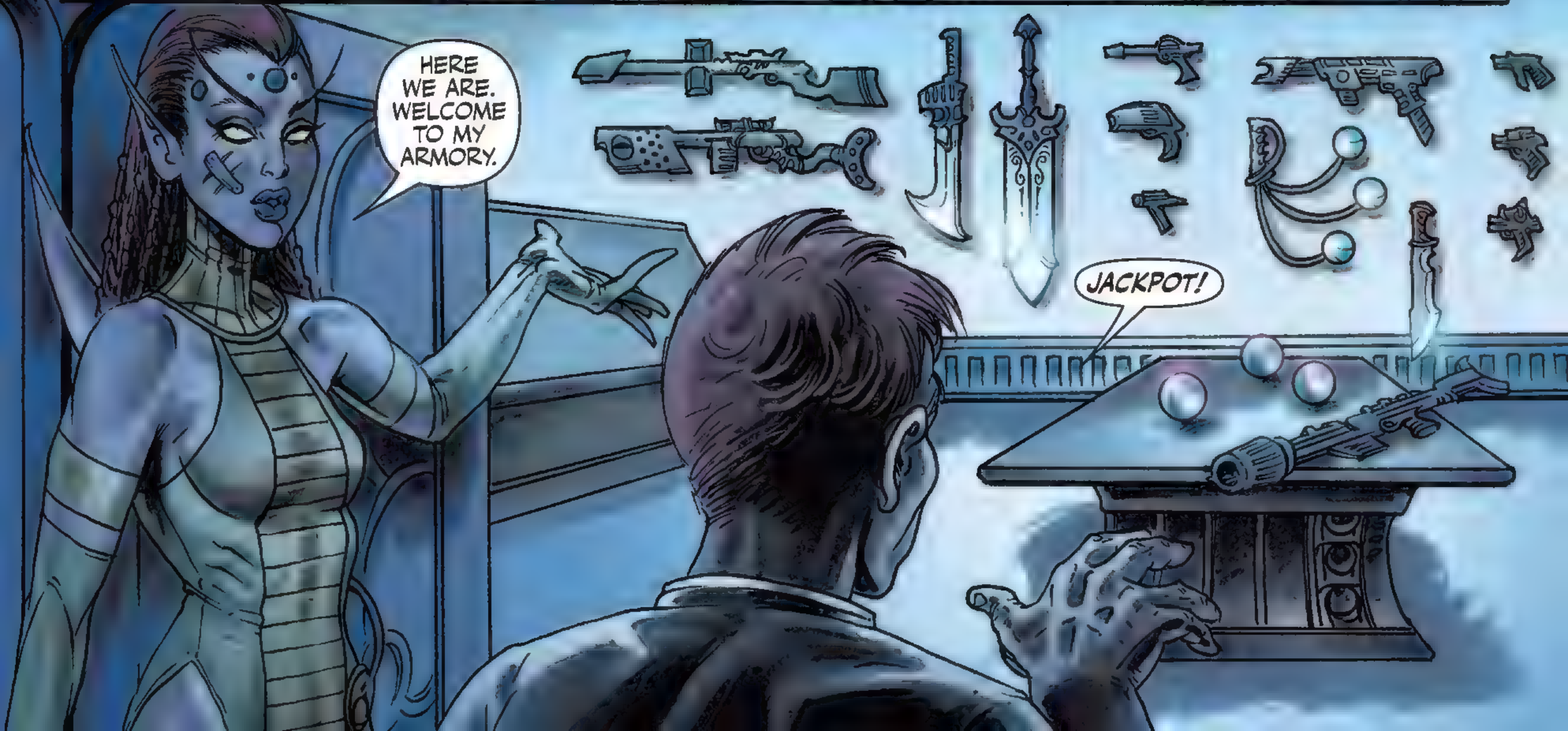
THAT'S SOME STORY. IF WHAT YOU ARE SAYING IS TRUE--AND YOUR PEOPLE HAD *THIS* KIND OF TECH--WELL, IF THEY COULDN'T DESTROY THEM, WHAT CHANCE DO WE HAVE?



I HAVE TECHNOLOGY I STOLE FROM THE INVADERS. FOR THE PAST FOURTEEN EARTH YEARS I HAVE BEEN TRAVELING AND DEVELOPING NEW WEAPONS TO FIGHT THEM. I BROUGHT THEM HERE AS A GIFT...A CHANCE FOR YOUR RACE TO WIN THE FIGHT THAT IS INEVITABLY COMING TO YOUR PLANET.

I HAVE MERGED THE SCIENCES OF OUR ENEMY'S RACE AND MINE AND CREATED THINGS YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE.

THINGS YOUR PEOPLE WOULDN'T DEVELOP FOR ANOTHER THOUSAND YEARS.



HERE WE ARE. WELCOME TO MY ARMORY.

JACKPOT!



WELL, YOU CERTAINLY HAVE KEPT BUSY...SO MANY INTERESTING TOYS. SO, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN STRANDED HERE?

ONLY FOR A DAY. I AM STILL GATHERING THINGS TOGETHER TO LEAVE THIS PLACE.

THANK GOD YOUR SHIP HAS A GOOD DEFENSE SYSTEM.

I AM SURE YOU CAN CONTACT THE AVENGERS OR THE FANTASTIC FOUR TO COME GIVE YOU A HAND...



UH... YEAH...I'M SURE THEY COULD HELP YOU. WHAT, MAY I ASK, DOES THIS DO?

IT'S A TELEPORTATION DEVICE. IT CAN TAKE YOU BACK AND FORWARD IN TIME AND TO ANY LOCATION. ONCE I WAS FINISHED HERE, I WAS GOING TO JUST TELEPORT TO ANOTHER SAFER LOCATION.

PERHAPS ONE OF YOUR CITIES.

I SEE IT HAS ITS OWN ENERGY SOURCE. AND THIS SCREEN, FOR LOCATION AND PINPOINTING TIME AND LOCATION, CORRECT?

A VERY WISE OBSERVATION. DO YOU HAVE A STRONG INCLINATION TOWARDS MECHANICS AND TECHNOLOGY?



YOU CAN SAY THAT. DO YOU HAVE ANY FOOD?

YES, I AM A TERRIBLE HOST. PLEASE...I WILL BE RIGHT BACK.



BABY, WE HIT PAY DIRT. I NEED YOU TO DO YOUR LOVER A BIG FAVOR.

SURE... WHAT IS IT?

I NEED YOU TO KNOCK OUT OUR CHATTY ALIEN FRIEND. IF WE CAN SHUT HER UP I CAN PROGRAM THIS THING SO WE CAN GET YOUR COAT BACK FROM BLACK CAT, FOR STARTERS.

MY COAT! SWEET REVENGE!

NO NEED TO ASK TWICE, HONEY-- CONSIDER HER SHUT UP!

Back in New York.

I MUST ADMIT... THAT WAS GOOD.

WHAT WAS? THE DESSERT OR--

YES, IT ALL WAS GOOD.

IT STILL LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE HUNGRY. SHOULD I CALL THE WAITER OVER OR SHOULD WE JUST WING IT?

NO NEED FOR THE WAITER, I THINK I'M DONE WITH THE CAKE...

WHERE ARE WE?

COAT CHECK... LOOKS LIKE A RESTAURANT.

HEY, GIRLIE... CAN YOU GET ME MY WHITE FUR COAT?

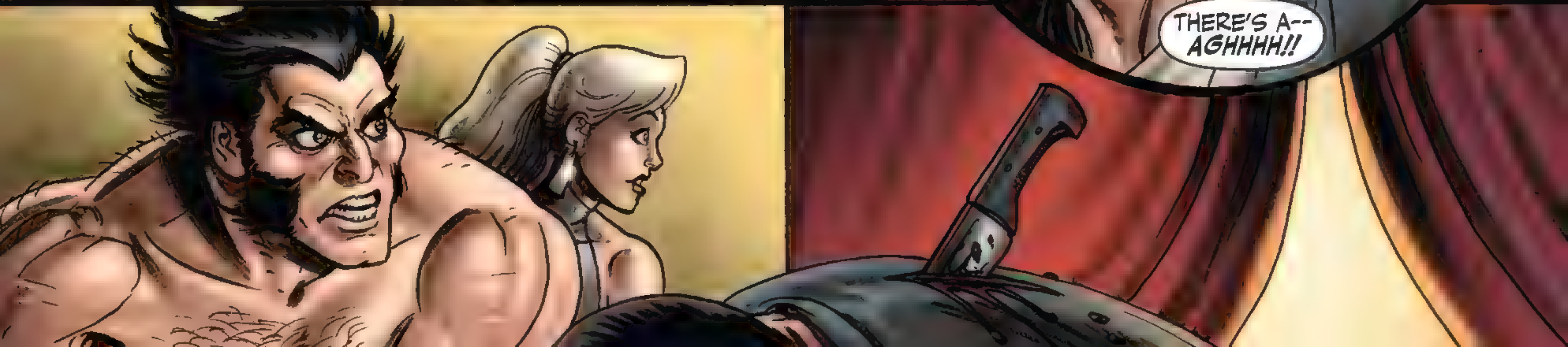
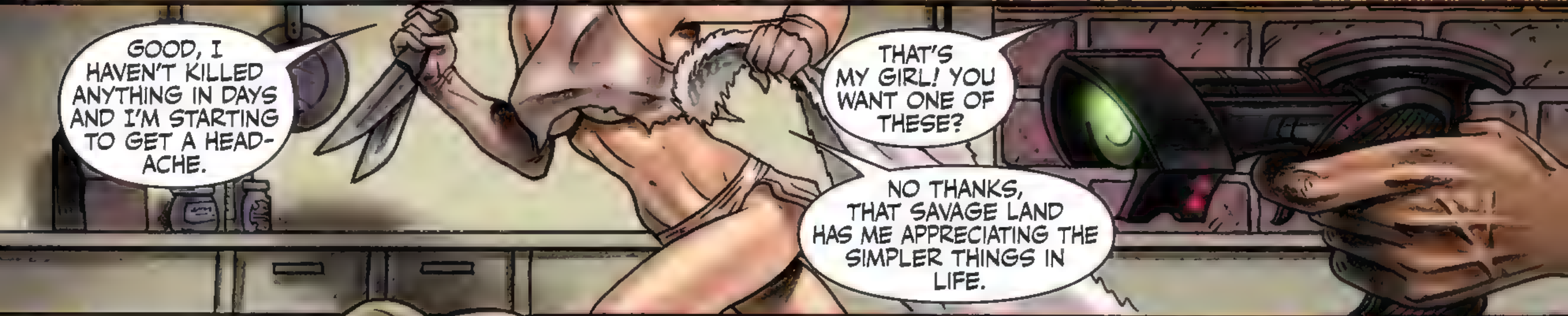
UH, YOU HAVE A TICKET?

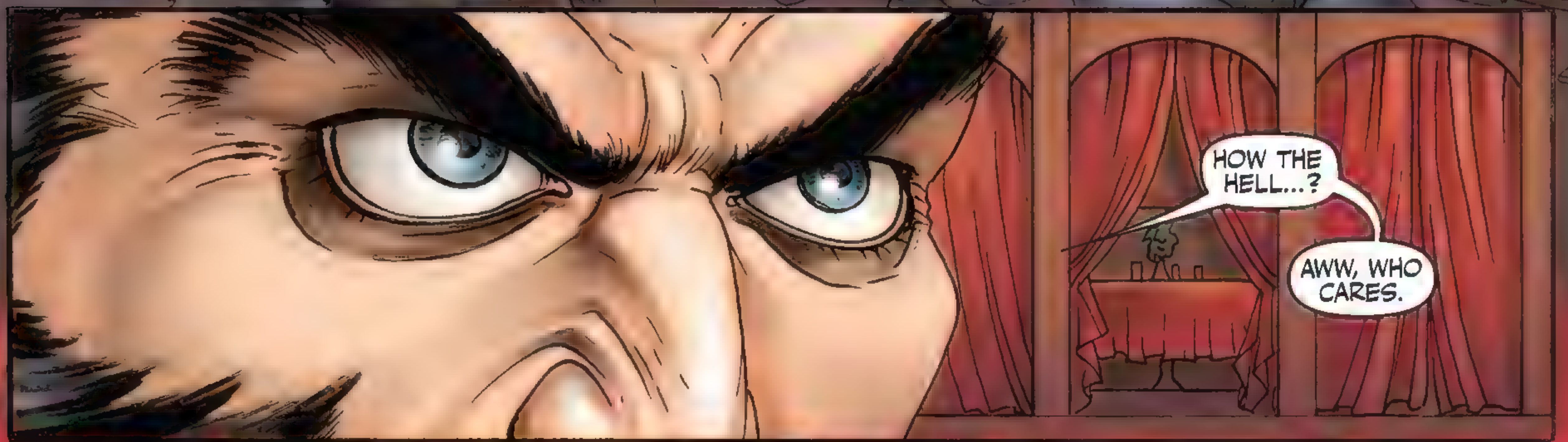
UGHHH!

TICKET, SMICKET-- OUT OF MY WAY!

HERE IT IS! HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND IT?

I PUT A TRACKING DEVICE ON THE COAT SO I COULD KEEP TABS ON YOU, MY DARLING...



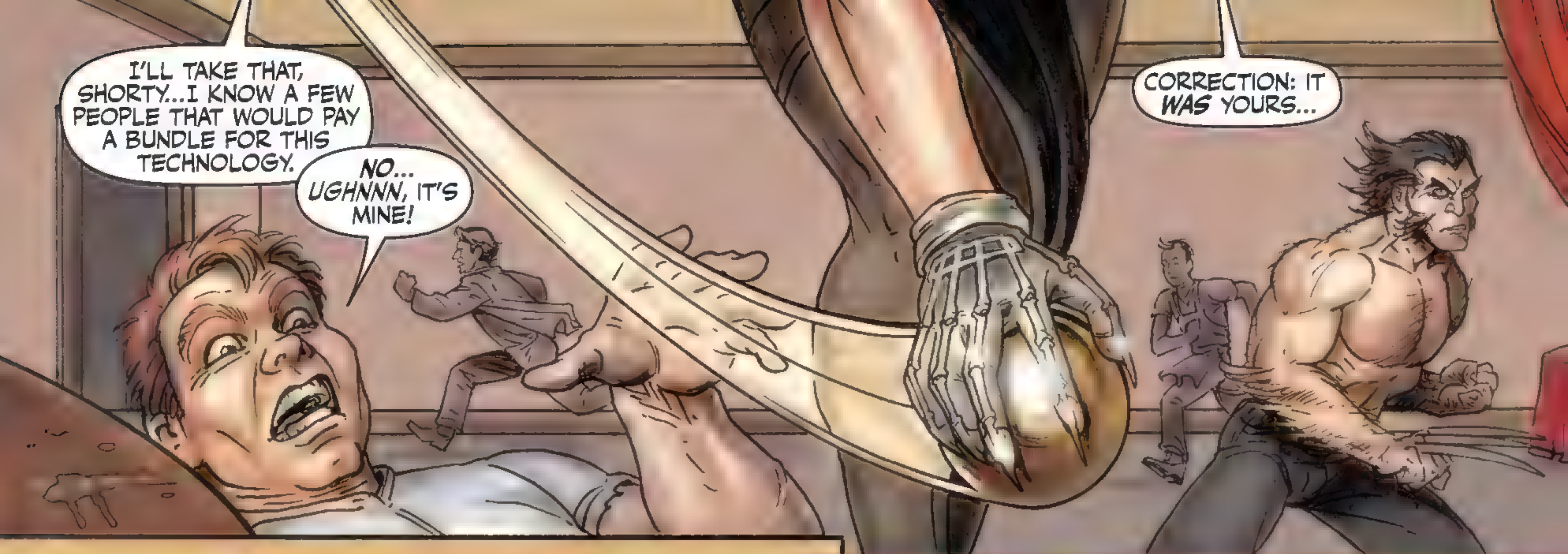




ZAP!

NOW THAT
HURT...





I'LL TAKE THAT, SHORTY...I KNOW A FEW PEOPLE THAT WOULD PAY A BUNDLE FOR THIS TECHNOLOGY.

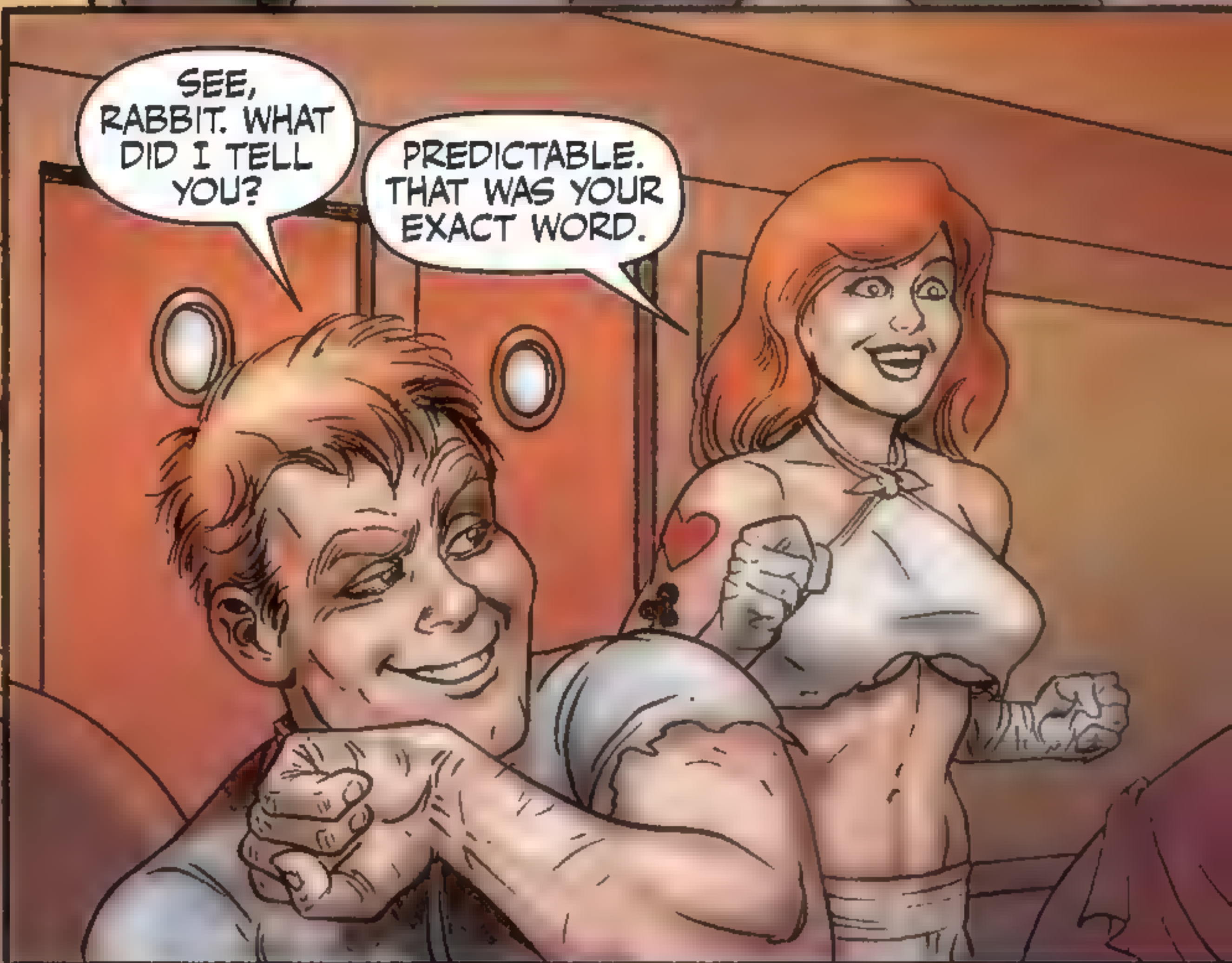
NO... UGHNNN, IT'S MINE!

CORRECTION: IT WAS YOURS...



WHAT IS THAT THING?

THE THING THAT'S GONNA MAKE ME RICH. DON'T WORRY, I SHARE...



SEE, RABBIT. WHAT DID I TELL YOU?

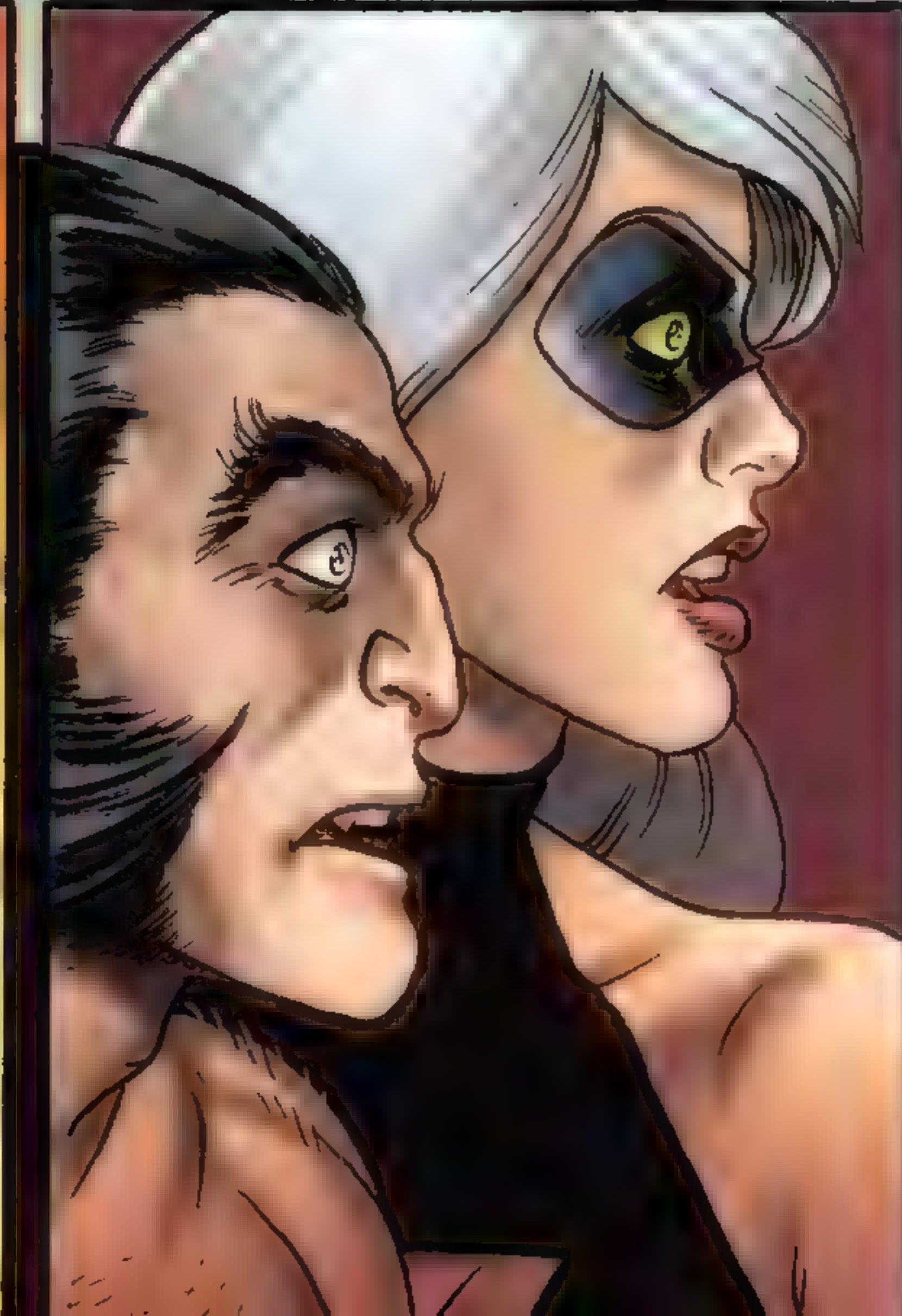
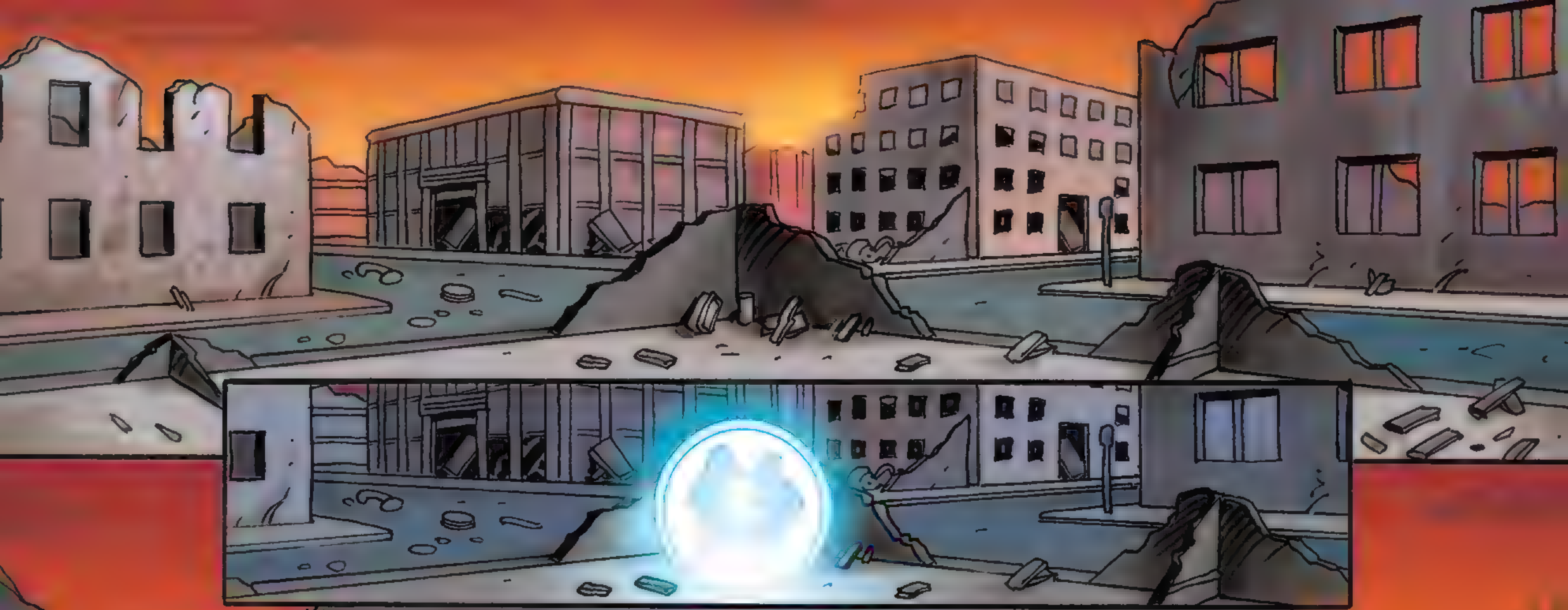
PREDICTABLE. THAT WAS YOUR EXACT WORD.



OH, NO! GET RID OF--



BYE-BYE. SAY HI TO THE FAR-FAR FUTURE!





No!!!



HOLY...

YOU SAID IT!



I'M GONNA PUT THIS THING DOWN... GET THE OTHERS TO SAFETY!



CRASH



THIS WAY! FOLLOW ME!



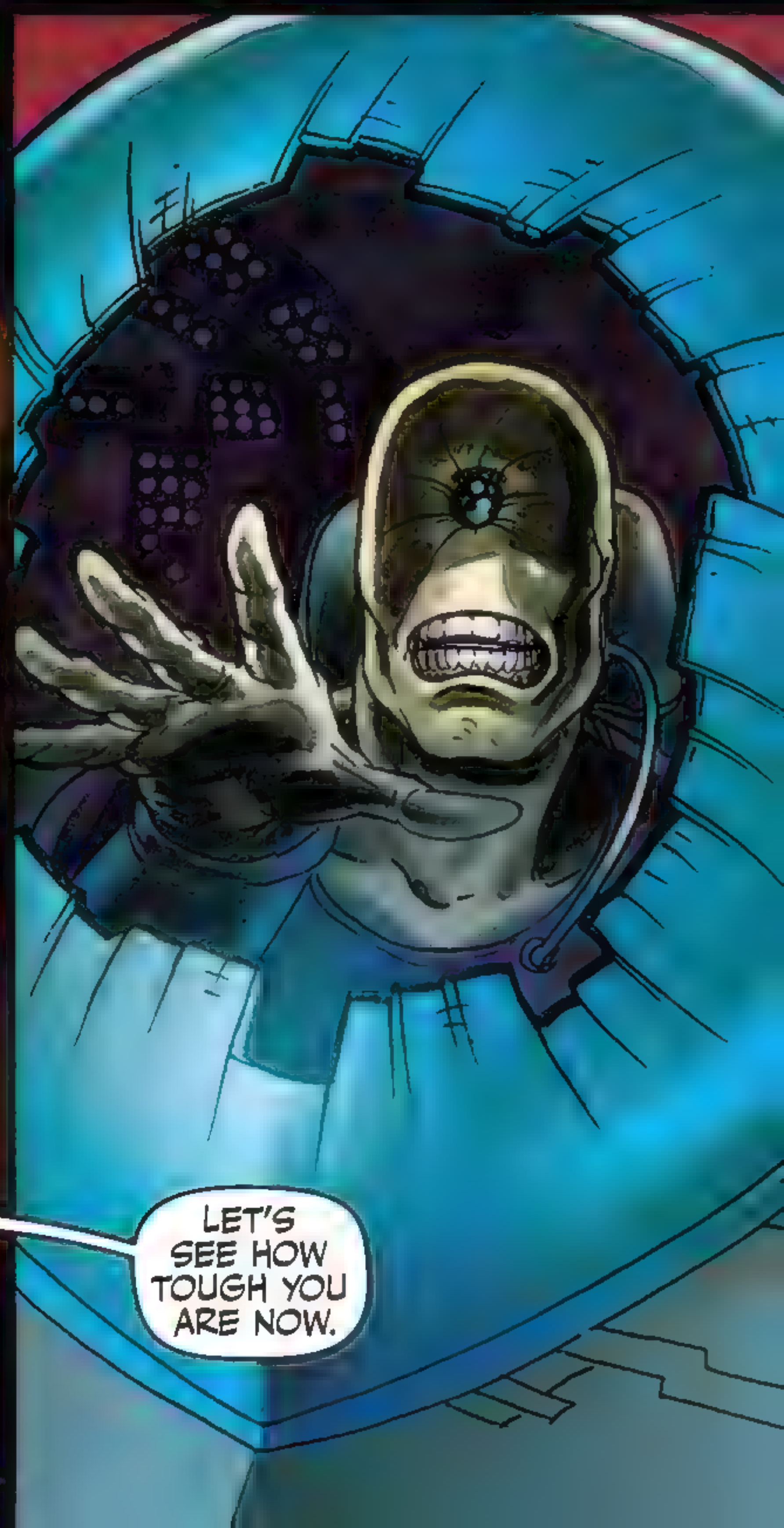
SO...A HUMAN DARES TO CHALLENGE ME!



AHHH!



THAT'S IT, BUB...



LET'S SEE HOW TOUGH YOU ARE NOW.



WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS... AND WHERE ARE WE... ANYONE?

WE CAN'T STAY HERE! WE HAVE TO KEEP MOVING!



TO WHERE?

SAFETY. ONLY HE CAN PROTECT US!

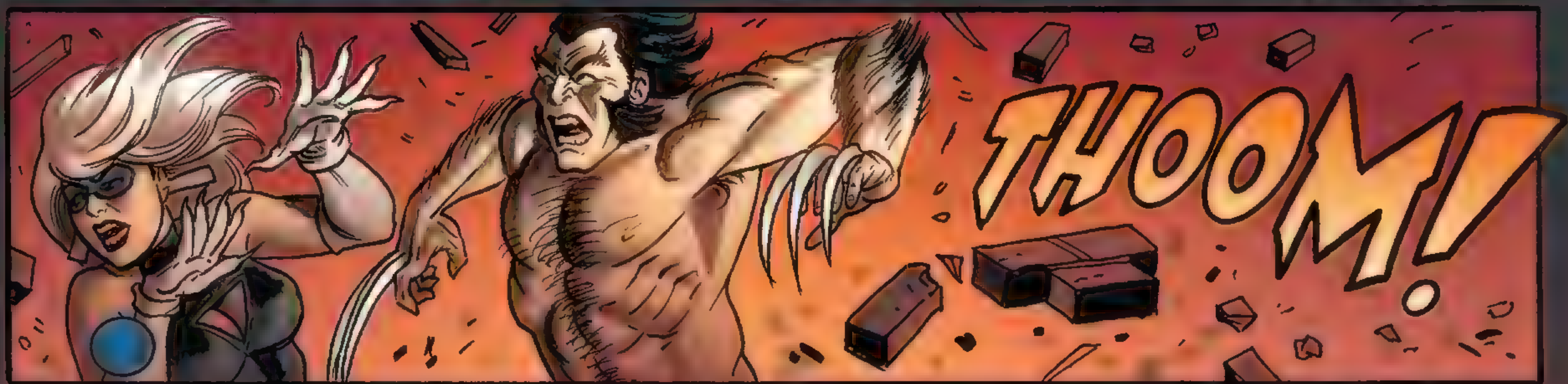
HE IS OUR ONLY HOPE!



WELL, WHOEVER "HE" IS... HE SURE WASN'T MUCH HELP OUT THERE.

LOGAN...

I'M FINE...NO NEED TO WORRY ANY MORE...



GREAT, HE BROUGHT FRIENDS... TOO MANY FOR US TO HANDLE, DARLIN'...

WE NEED TO MOVE, THEN FIND THIS PERSON THEY'RE ALL TALKING ABOUT.

I'M ALL FOR THAT. WHOEVER THIS CLOWN IS--



I'M NO CLOWN, STRANGER.



MY
NAME IS
KILLRAVEN!



COME
WITH ME IF
YOU WANT
TO LIVE.

END PART ONE

MARVEL

**LIMITED
SERIES**

2 OF 3

PALMIOTTI

GRAY

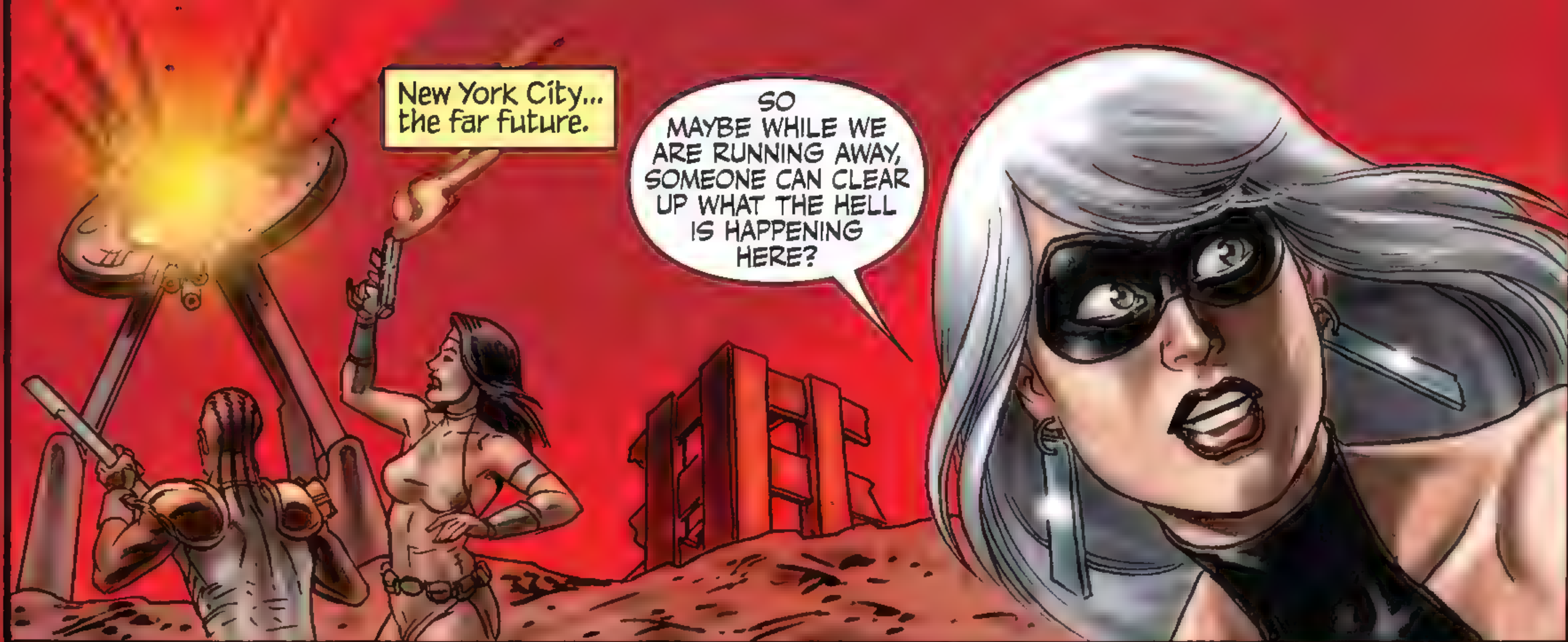
LINSNER

BROWN

WOLVERINE & THE BLACK CAT

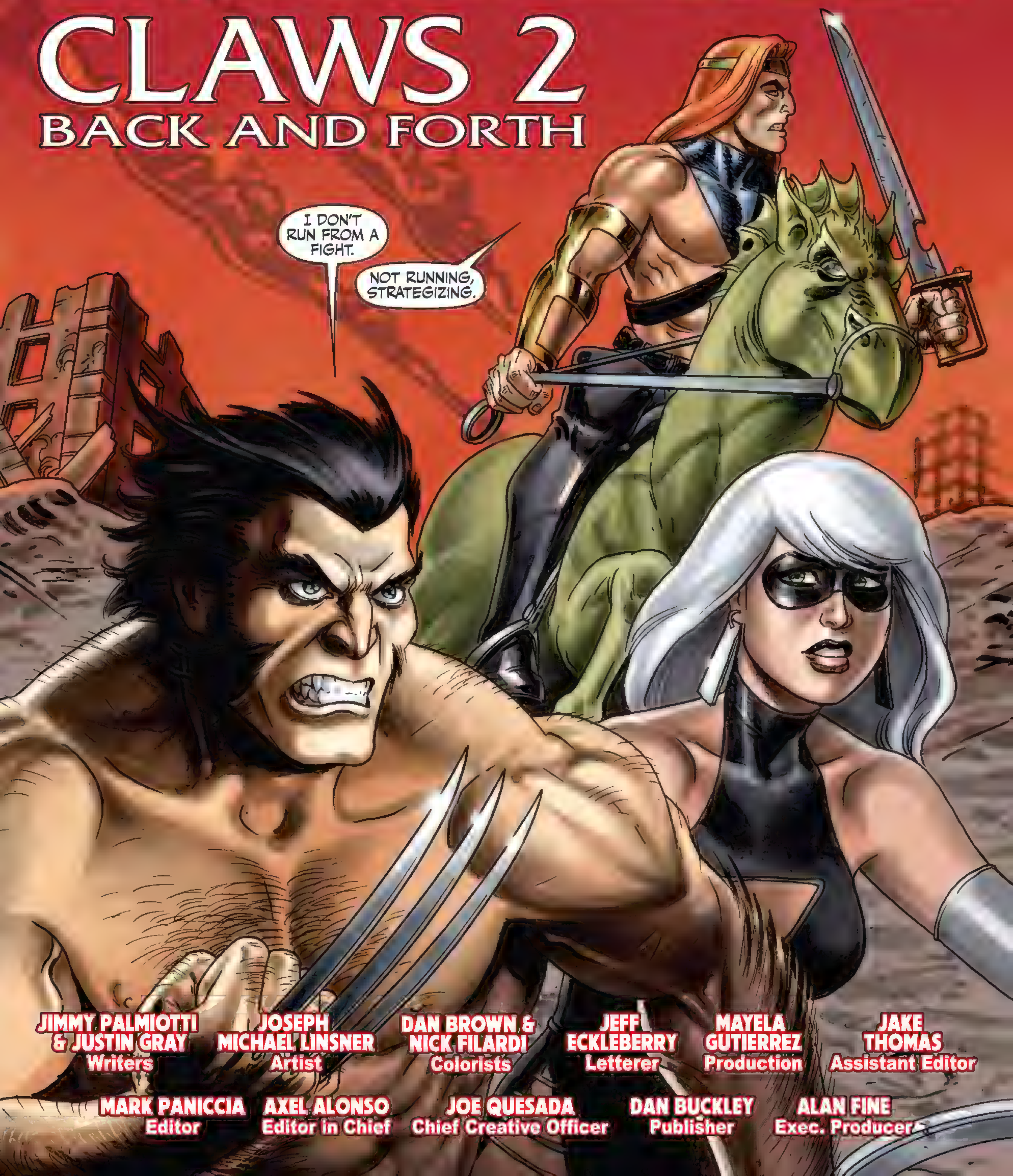
BLAZES II





CLAWS 2

BACK AND FORTH



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& JUSTIN GRAY**
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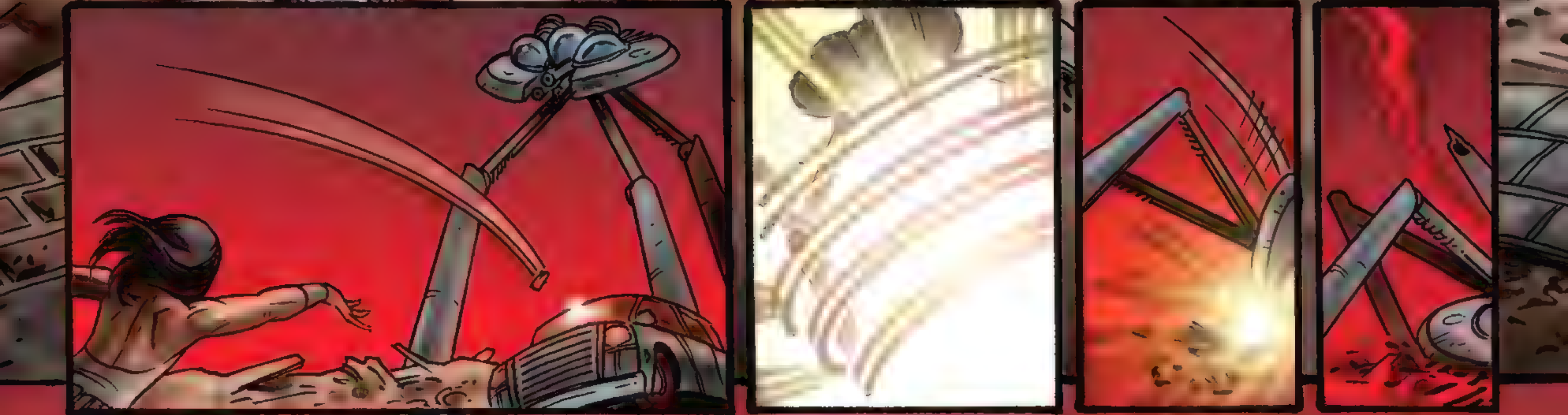


BABY, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I DO THIS, THERE IS A CERTAIN JOY IN WATCHING THESE BASTARDS GET ELIMINATED.

M'SHULLA, THE ELATION YOU EXPERIENCE...IT SHOULDN'T BE A JOYOUS ONE.

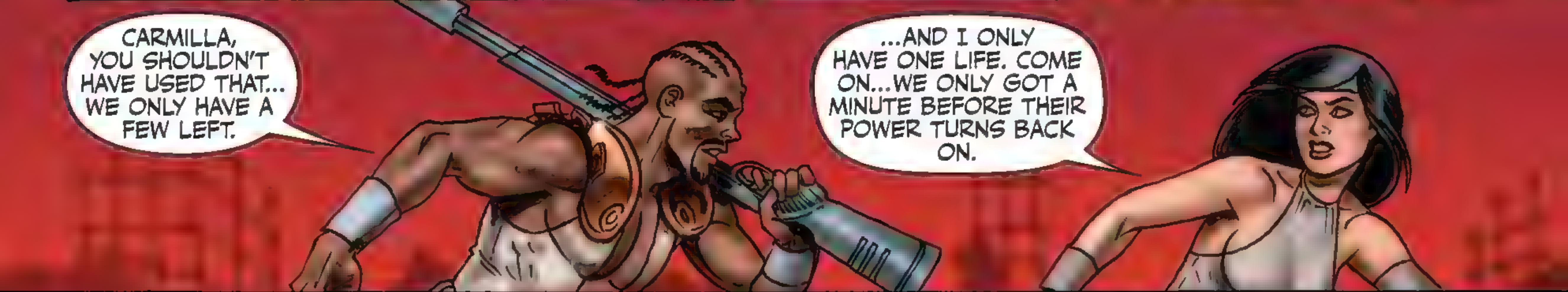
HEY, I DIDN'T ASK THEM TO ATTACK THE PLANET AND ENSLAVE THE HUMAN RACE... THAT WAS THEIR CHOICE.

I KNOW, I KNOW. I'M SENDING A PULSE GRENADE THEIR WAY...IT SHOULD GIVE US SOME DISTANCE.



CARMILLA, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE USED THAT... WE ONLY HAVE A FEW LEFT.

...AND I ONLY HAVE ONE LIFE. COME ON...WE ONLY GOT A MINUTE BEFORE THEIR POWER TURNS BACK ON.



QUICKLY, TAKE THESE...YOU WILL NEED THEM TO FIGHT.

NO THANKS, KILLRAVEN. I CAN HANDLE MYSELF.

GIVE THEM TO ME, THEN...

RATHER NOT HAVE TO GET MY HANDS DIRTY.





I WITNESSED
YOU TAKE DOWN ONE
OF THE SHIPS...BUT WE
HAVE OVER A DOZEN HEADING
TOWARDS US AND WE ARE
ONLY A FEW. YOU MUST
KNOW THIS...

IF YOU
HAVEN'T GUESSED
BY NOW, WE'RE NEW IN
TOWN. CARE TO BRING US
UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S
GOING ON?



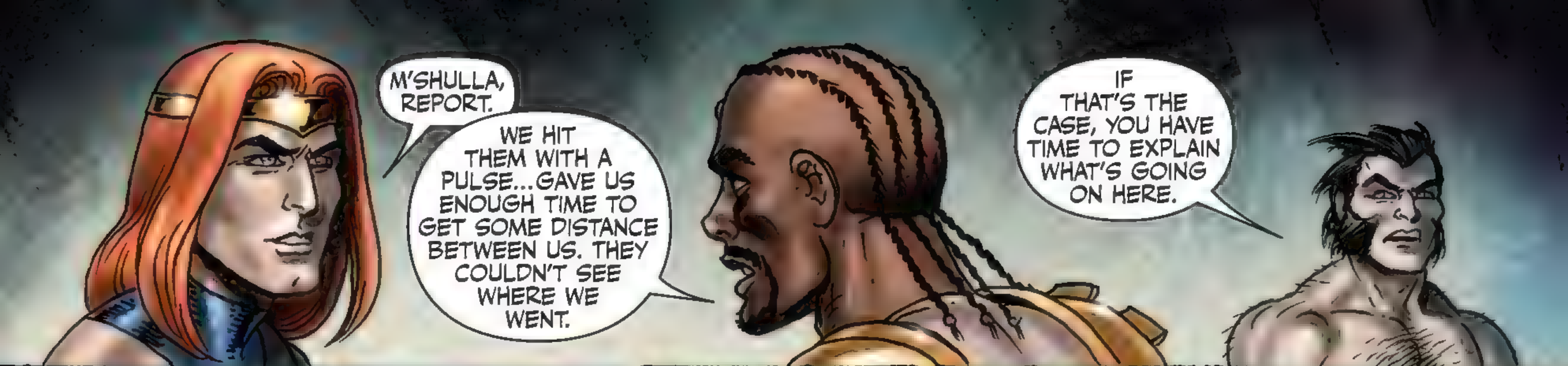
THERE
WILL BE TIME
LATER TO TALK...I
MUST HELP MY
COMPATRIOTS.



FOLLOW ME,
MY NEW FRIENDS...
TOGETHER WE
HAVE A BETTER
CHANCE.

WHAT
DO YOU THINK,
PRINCESS?

YOU'RE
KIDDING ME,
RIGHT?



M'SHULLA,
REPORT.

WE HIT
THEM WITH A
PULSE...GAVE US
ENOUGH TIME TO
GET SOME DISTANCE
BETWEEN US. THEY
COULDN'T SEE
WHERE WE
WENT.

IF
THAT'S THE
CASE, YOU HAVE
TIME TO EXPLAIN
WHAT'S GOING
ON HERE.



LET US
TALK AND WALK...
WE WERE ON A MISSION
TO GET BACK TWO OF OUR
TEAMMATES, MINT JULEP
AND VOLCANA ASH.



THEY
SOUND LIKE
STRIPPER
NAMES...



OKAY...



ANYWAY,
WE WERE
TO MEET UP
WITH THEM IN
TOMPKINS
JUNCTION
YESTERDAY...

THEY WERE BRINGING BACK
SOMEONE TO HELP US WITH
OUR CAUSE WHEN WE WERE ALL
SURROUNDED AND A FIGHT BROKE
OUT. THE GIRLS, AS WELL AS
THE DOCTOR, WERE
CAPTURED.

WE KNOW THEY WANT
THE DOCTOR FOR A NUMBER
OF REASONS, AND THE GIRLS...
WELL, I AM PRETTY SURE THE
ENEMY WILL BE TORTURING
THEM FOR INFORMATION ON
OUR WHEREABOUTS.

LAST WORD
WE GOT IS THAT THEY
ARE BEING KEPT AT ONE
OF THE MAIN CITADELS A
FEW MILES FROM HERE...BUT
WE HAVE BEEN HITTING
RESISTANCE AT EVERY
TURN.



THAT'S
A GREAT
STORY, BUT
WHAT I WANNA
KNOW IS JUST
WHAT THE HELL
IS GOING
ON...

WHO ARE
YOU GUYS, WHAT
ARE THOSE THINGS
OUT THERE AND, WELL,
WHEN DID THIS ALL
HAPPEN?

WHERE
HAVE YOU
PEOPLE
BEEN?



WE HAVE BEEN
IN THE PAST...THIS
LITTLE MACHINE
BROUGHT US HERE
AND HOPEFULLY
WHEN WE CAN
FIGURE IT
OUT...

IT CAN
GET US THE
HELL OUT OF
HERE. NOTHING
PERSONAL, BUT
THIS PLACE
REALLY
SUCKS.

IT LOOKS TO
BE THE WORK OF
DOCTOR THOMAS.
YOU SAY IT'S A
TIME MACHINE?



EITHER
THAT OR THERE WAS
SOMETHING FUNNY
IN OUR DESSERT AND
WE'RE HALLUCINATING
ALL THIS.

SO,
WHAT'S
THE DEAL
HERE?



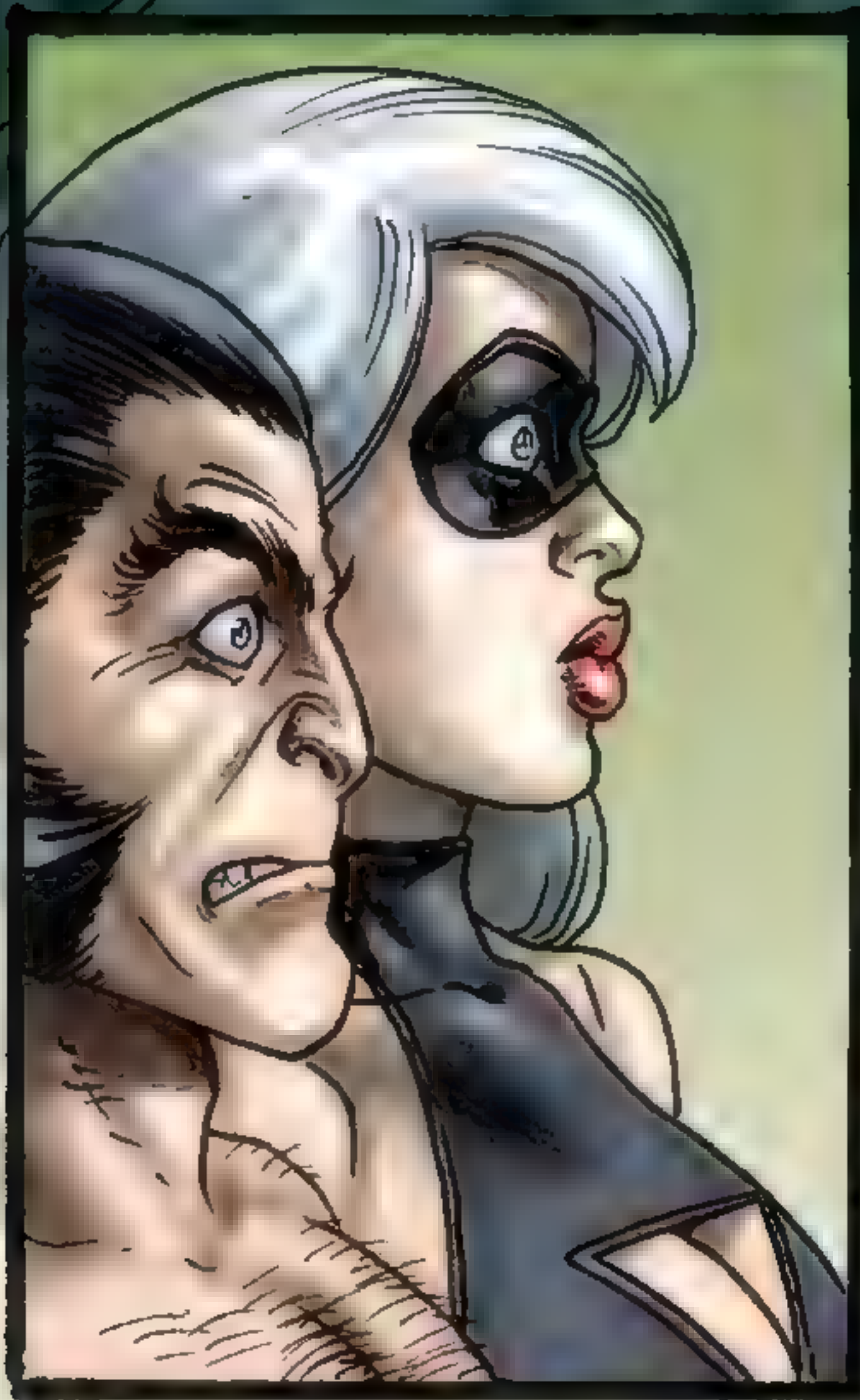
"THE MARTIANS CAME OUT OF THE NIGHT SKY ONE SUMMER EVENING MANY YEARS AGO AND LAUNCHED AN ALL-OUT ATTACK.

"WE FOUGHT BACK AS BEST WE COULD...BUT MANKIND WAS NOT EQUIPPED FOR AN INVASION ON THIS SCALE. THE BIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS WE USED TO FIGHT THE INVADERS WERE TURNED AGAINST US.

"THE MARTIANS SYSTEMATICALLY KILLED AS MANY HUMANS AS THEY COULD. BILLIONS DIED BY THEIR HANDS AND REMAINING LIFE ON THE PLANET HAS MUTATED BECAUSE OF THE FALLOUT.

"THE STRONG AMONG US SURVIVED, BUT WERE TAKEN AND MADE SLAVES OF AND USED FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF OUR SADISTIC INVADERS.

"I MYSELF WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE, BUT ESCAPED, AS DID OTHERS YOU SEE HERE. WE ARE ONE OF MANY REBELLION FACTIONS ROAMING WHAT'S LEFT OF THE PLANET, FIGHTING FOR THE LIBERATION OF EARTH...WITH A HOPE THAT WE CAN ONE DAY TURN THE TIDES AND RID OURSELVES OF THESE HOSTILE INVADERS."



I DON'T WANNA SPEND ANY MORE TIME THAN WE HAVE TO IN THIS MESS.

BE NICE, THIS IS THEIR HOME.



SINCE THEY ARE ONTO US, THE ONLY PATH LEFT IS A SUBWAY TUNNEL NOT FAR FROM HERE. IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE EMPTY... MOSTLY.

MOSTLY... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?



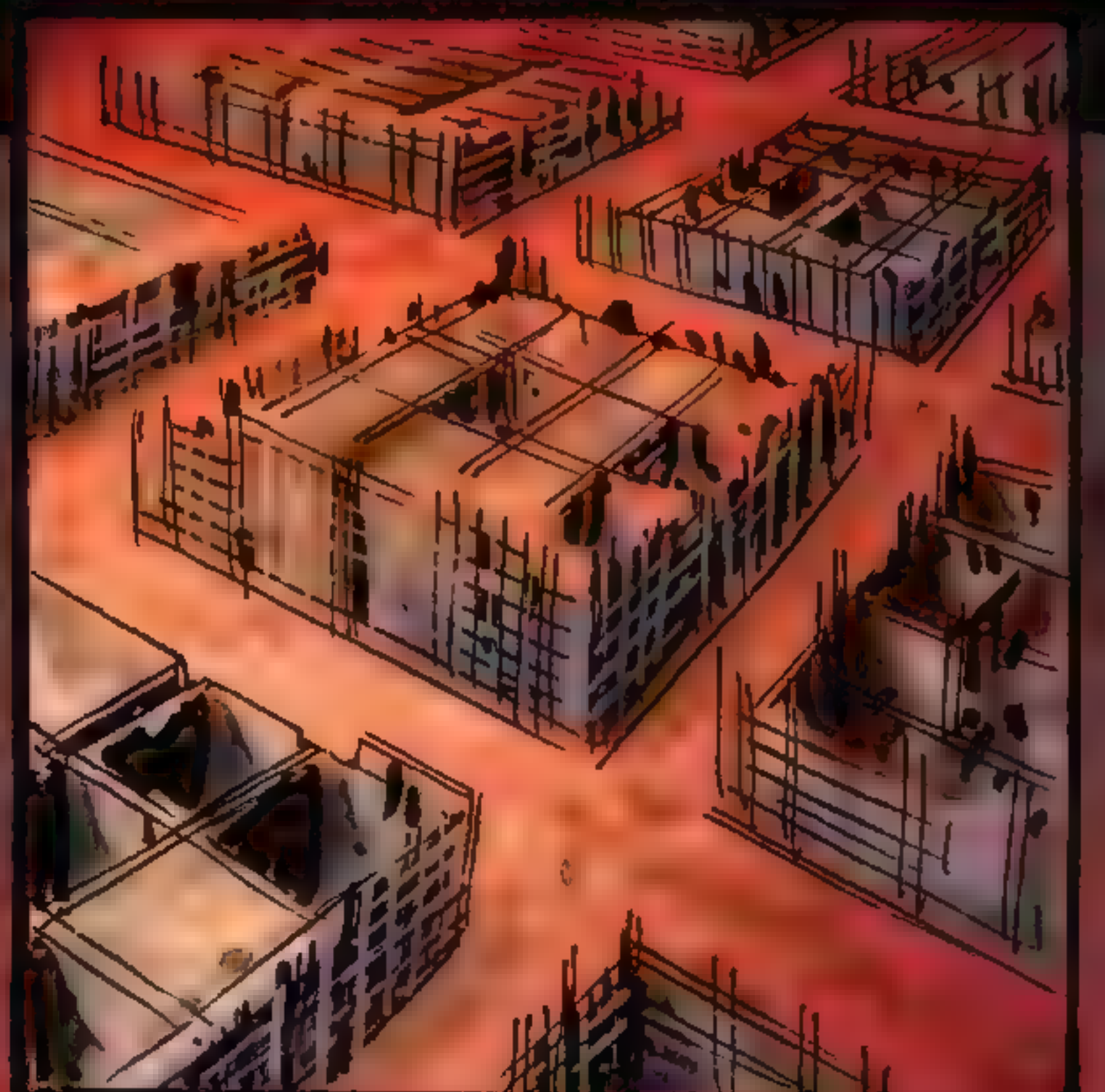
THEN IT'S SETTLED, OUR NEW FRIENDS WILL HELP US LIBERATE ALL THREE. FOLLOW ME.



ANYONE LISTENING TO ME...



WHAT DOES SHE MEAN BY MOSTLY?



AAARRCH!!!



I WILL NOT ASK AGAIN. TELL ME WHERE THE ONE KNOWN AS KILLRAVEN IS, WHERE THE FREEMAN BASE CAMP IS, AND WE WILL LET YOU AND YOUR COMPANION LIVE.

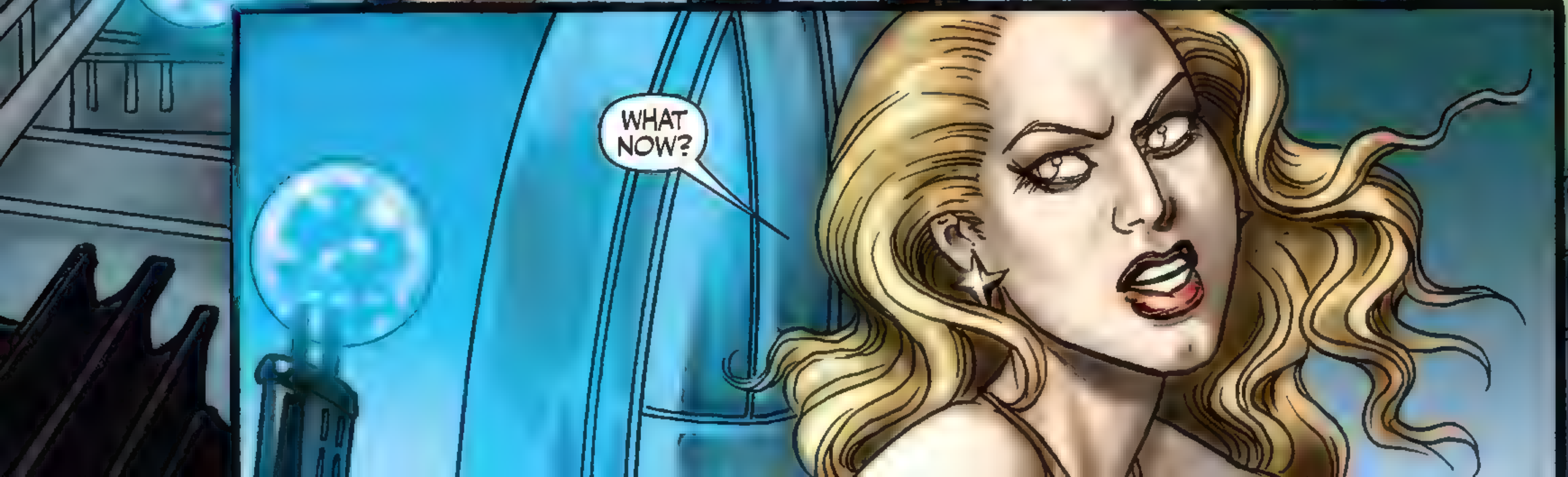
AAARGH!!



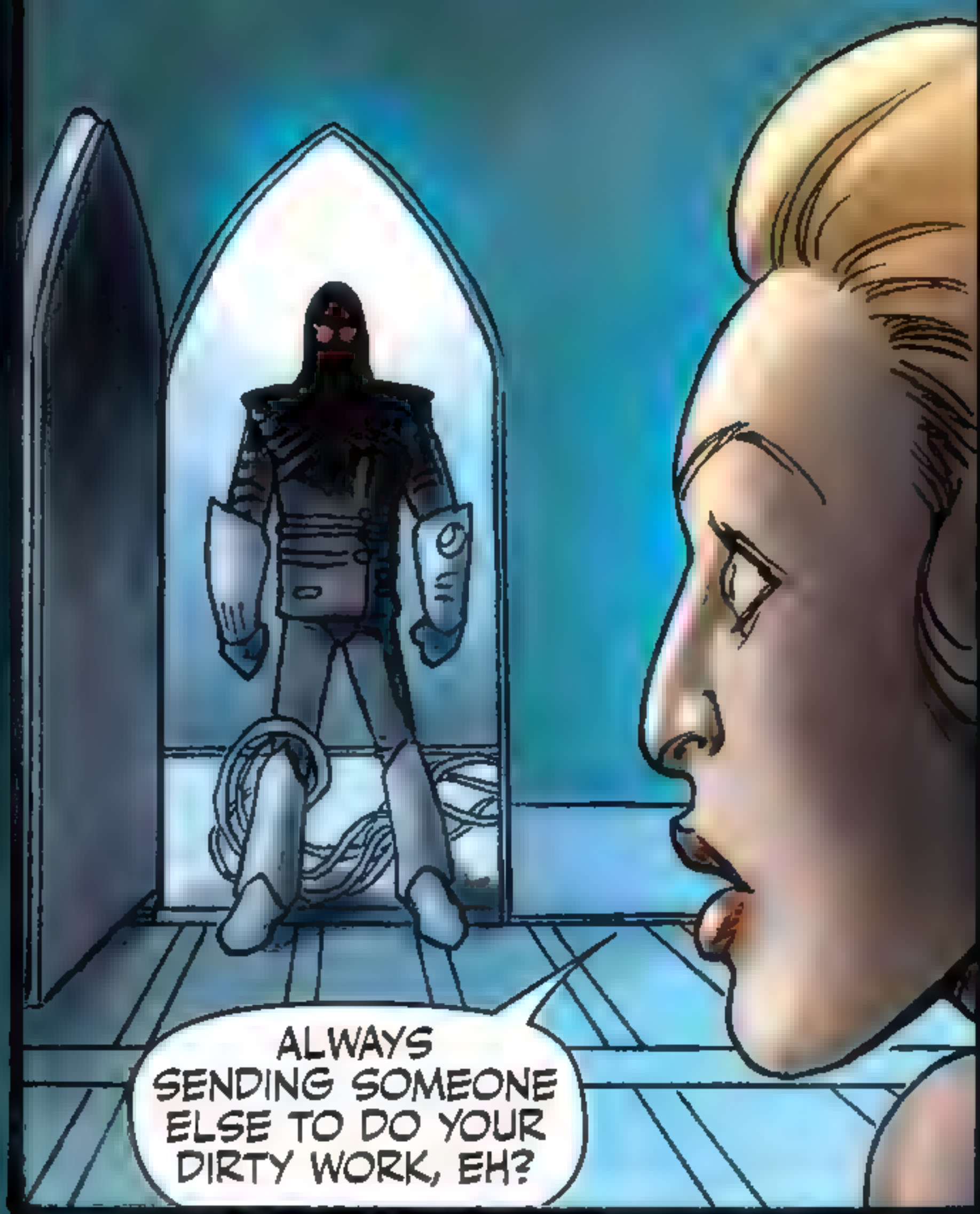
DON'T SAY A WORD, MINT...

GO TO HELL, YOU MARTIAN SCUM! YOU'LL GET NOTHING FROM ME!

THEN WE SHALL DO THIS...THE HARD WAY...DISPATCH THE EXTRACTOR.



WHAT NOW?



ALWAYS
SENDING SOMEONE
ELSE TO DO YOUR
DIRTY WORK, EH?



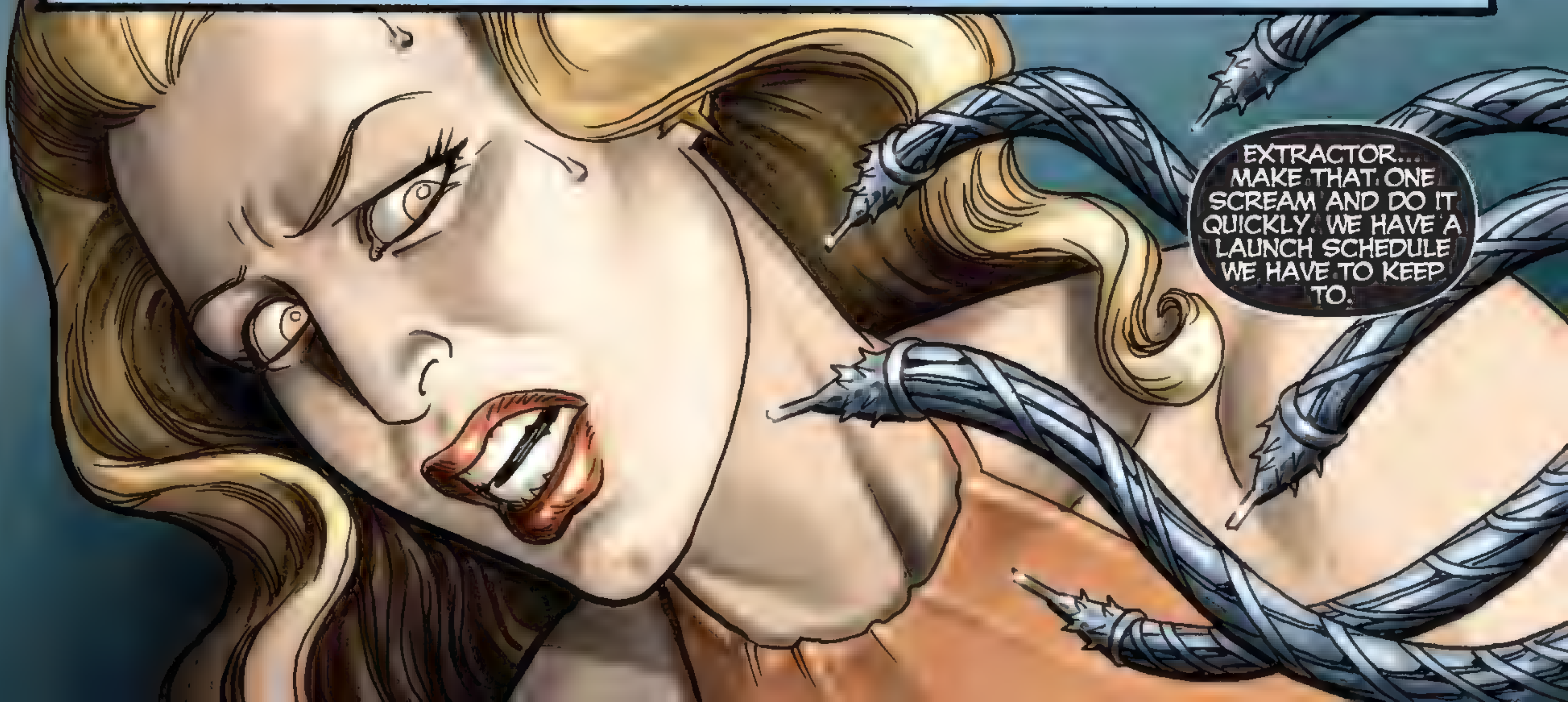
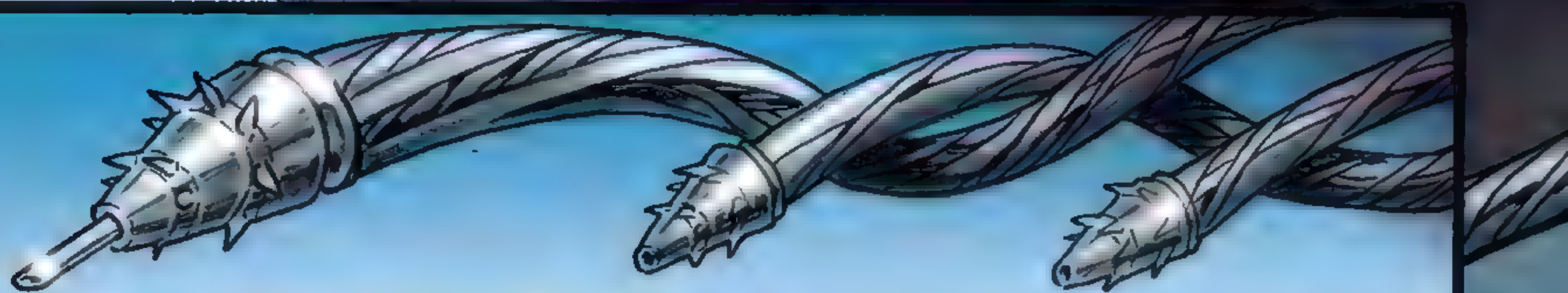
I
WOULD NOT
SULLY MY HANDS
ON THE LIKES OF
YOU TWO.



TOUCH
ME AND I'LL
BURN THIS WHOLE
PLACE TO THE
GROUND.



I WOULD
LAUGH IF IT
WERE NOT
SO SAD.



EXTRACTOR...
MAKE THAT ONE
SCREAM AND DO IT
QUICKLY. WE HAVE A
LAUNCH SCHEDULE
WE HAVE TO KEEP
TO.

Meanwhile...

ACCORDING TO THE MAP, IT'S A FEW HUNDRED YARDS UP AND THAT TUNNEL SHOULD TAKE US RIGHT UNDER THEIR BUILDING.

LOGAN, I WAS JUST THINKING...IF WE GET STUCK IN THIS PLACE, IT'S REALLY NOT GOING TO BE VERY ACCOMMODATING FOR MY LIFE-STYLE.

THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT? LOOK AROUND YOU...

YEAH, I GET IT...IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AND WE ARE FIGHTING MARTIANS. IT'S SCREWED UP. THIS WHOLE TRIP IS BECOMING A MAJOR BUZZ-KILL.

WE WERE HAVING SUCH A NICE DINNER BEFORE ARCADE AND RABBIT SHOWED UP. I THOUGHT WE WERE...

WE WERE... BUT THAT SHIP HAS SAILED. LET'S TRY TO STAY IN THE MOMENT, SHALL WE?

THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING TO DO.

THIS LOOKS LIKE IT... M'SHULLA.

WAY AHEAD OF YOU.

IT SMELLS FUNNY...LIKE WET FUR. MUST BE RATS.

WELL...IF IT'S JUST RATS, THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM.

JUST RATS, RIGHT, LOGAN?



HMM,
HUMAN REMAINS.
EVERYONE ARM
THEMSELVES...

HE'S RIGHT...
THE SMELL
IS GETTING
STRONGER.

BY THE
LOOK OF THE
BONES, THE GASH
MARKS SEEM TO
BE FROM ANIMAL
TEETH...MAYBE A
FOOT LONG.



YEAH, A
BIT SERRATED
AS WELL...NOT
SURE WHAT DID
THIS...

NOT FAMILIAR
WITH THE OUTWARD
JAGGED EDGE.

WELL,
IT MUST HAVE
HURT, WHATEVER
IT WAS.



SEEMS LIKE WE FOUND
THE CULPRIT. NO NEED
TO WORRY, IT LOOKS
MIGHTY DEAD.

IT SEEMS TO ME
THAT SOMETHING
BIGGER THAN IT
HAS ATTACKED AND
EATEN IT...

AND WORSE,
IT LOOKS
LIKE IT ISN'T
FINISHED.

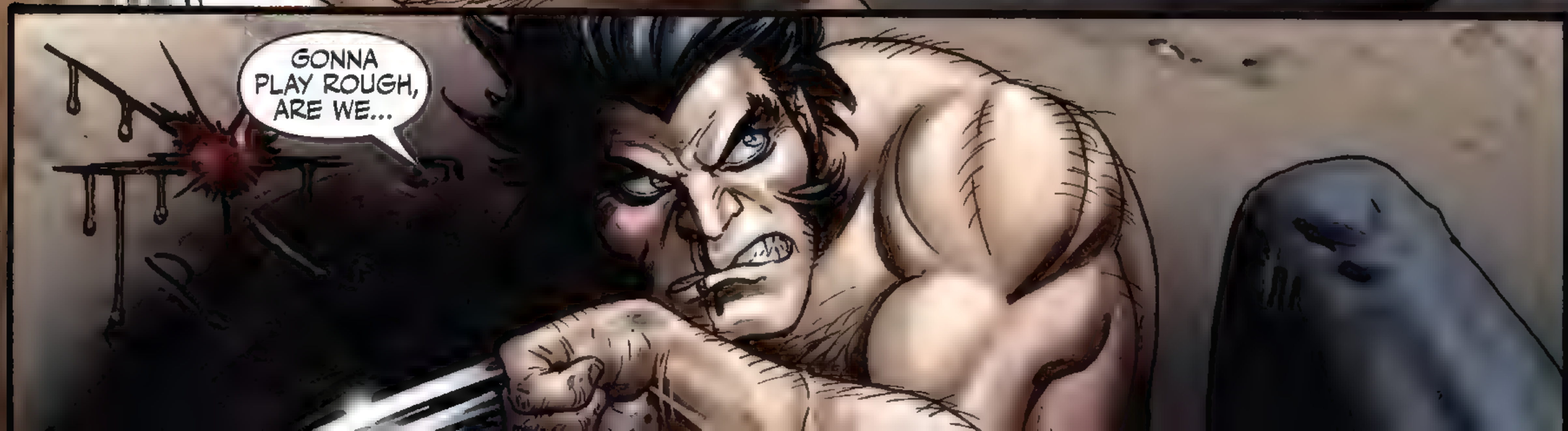
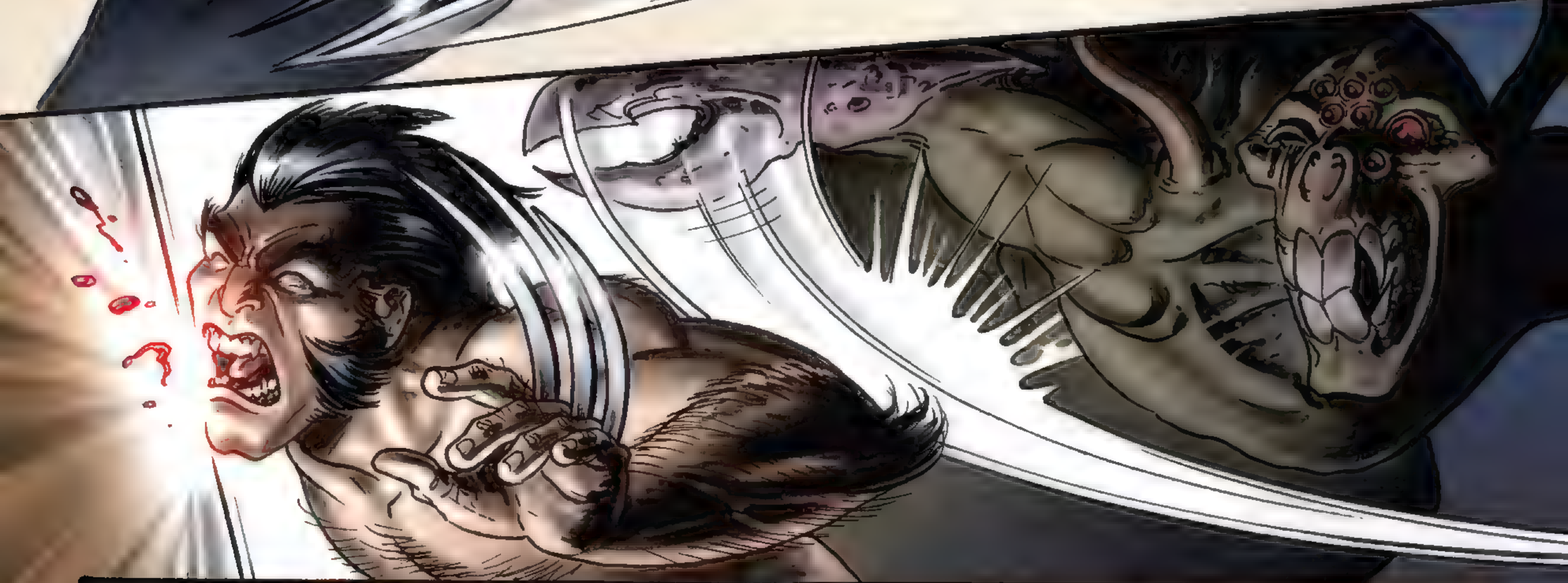


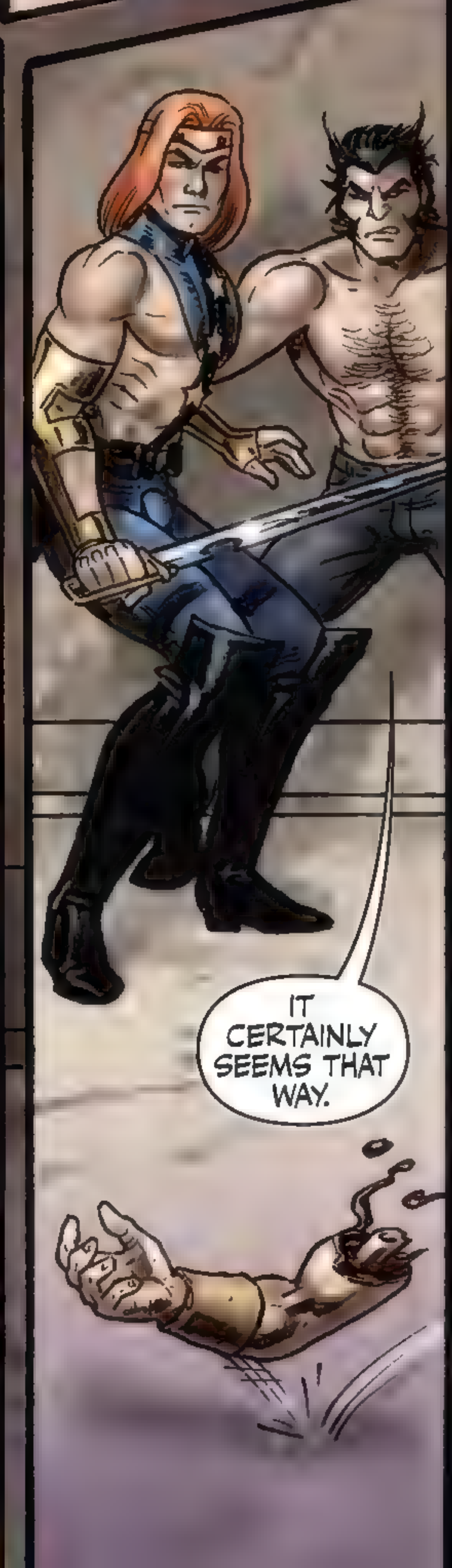
HOW'S THIS
FOR AN IDEA, WE
DON'T SIT AROUND
AND DEBATE WHO
DID WHAT AND GET
THE HELL OUT OF
HERE.

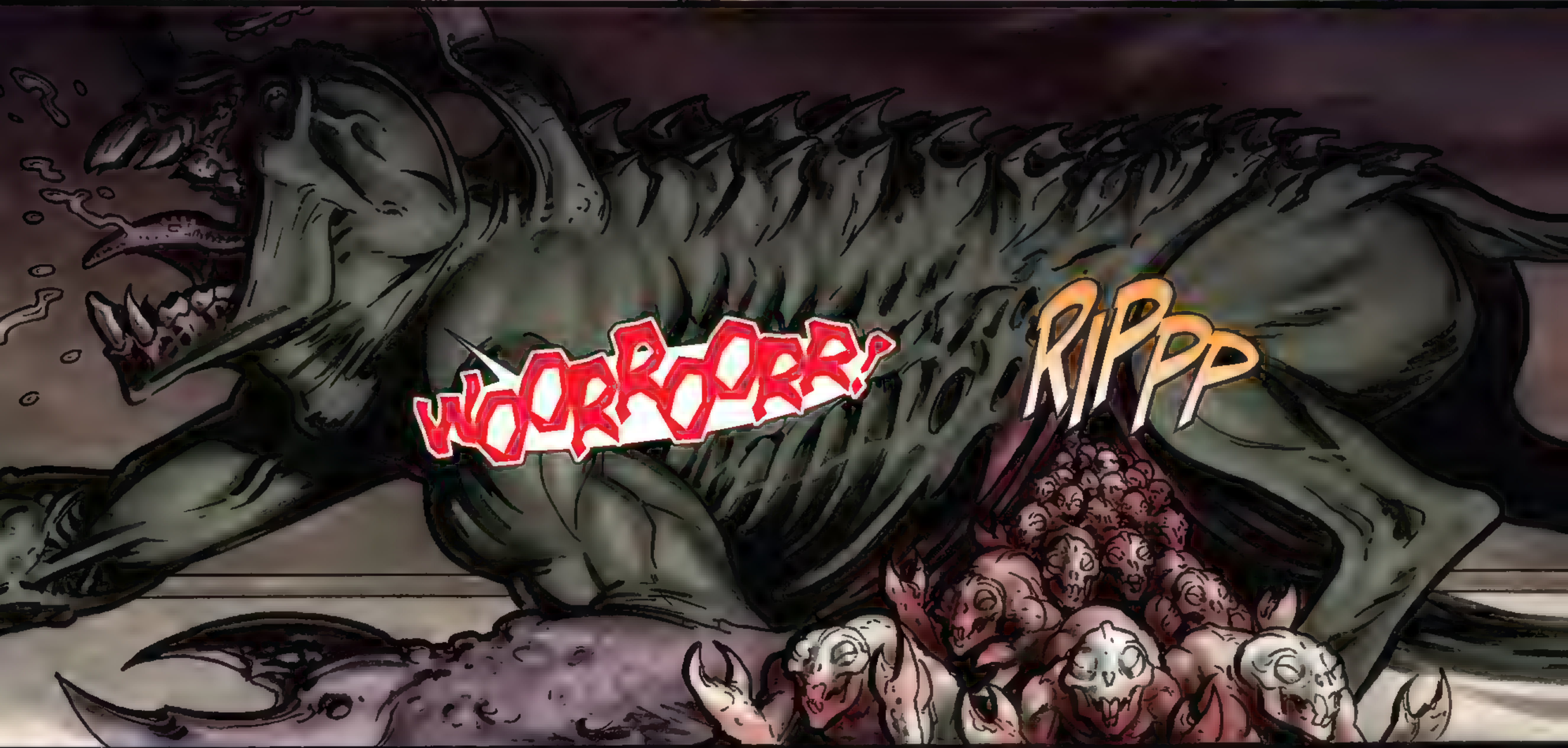
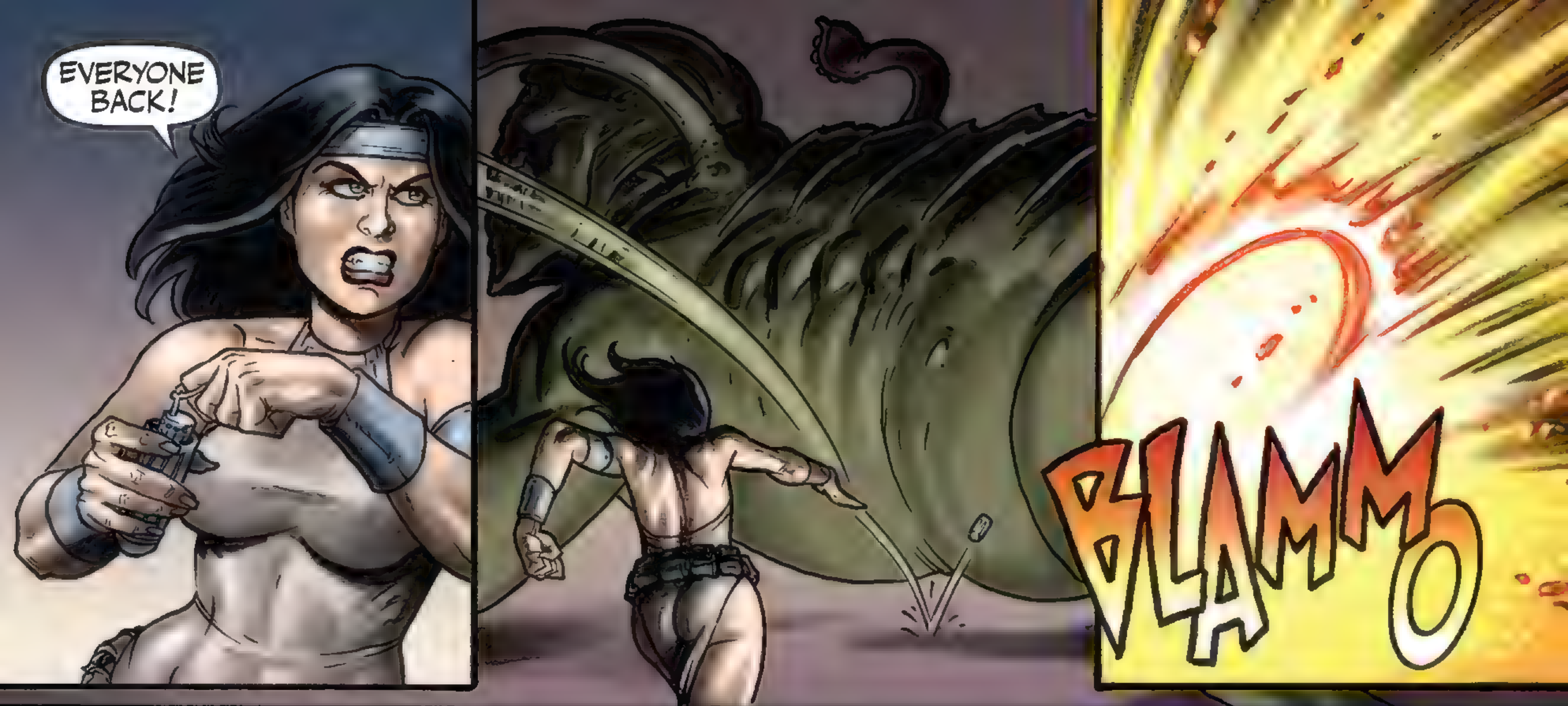
TOO
LATE...WE GOT
INCOMING.



GROOOOR!

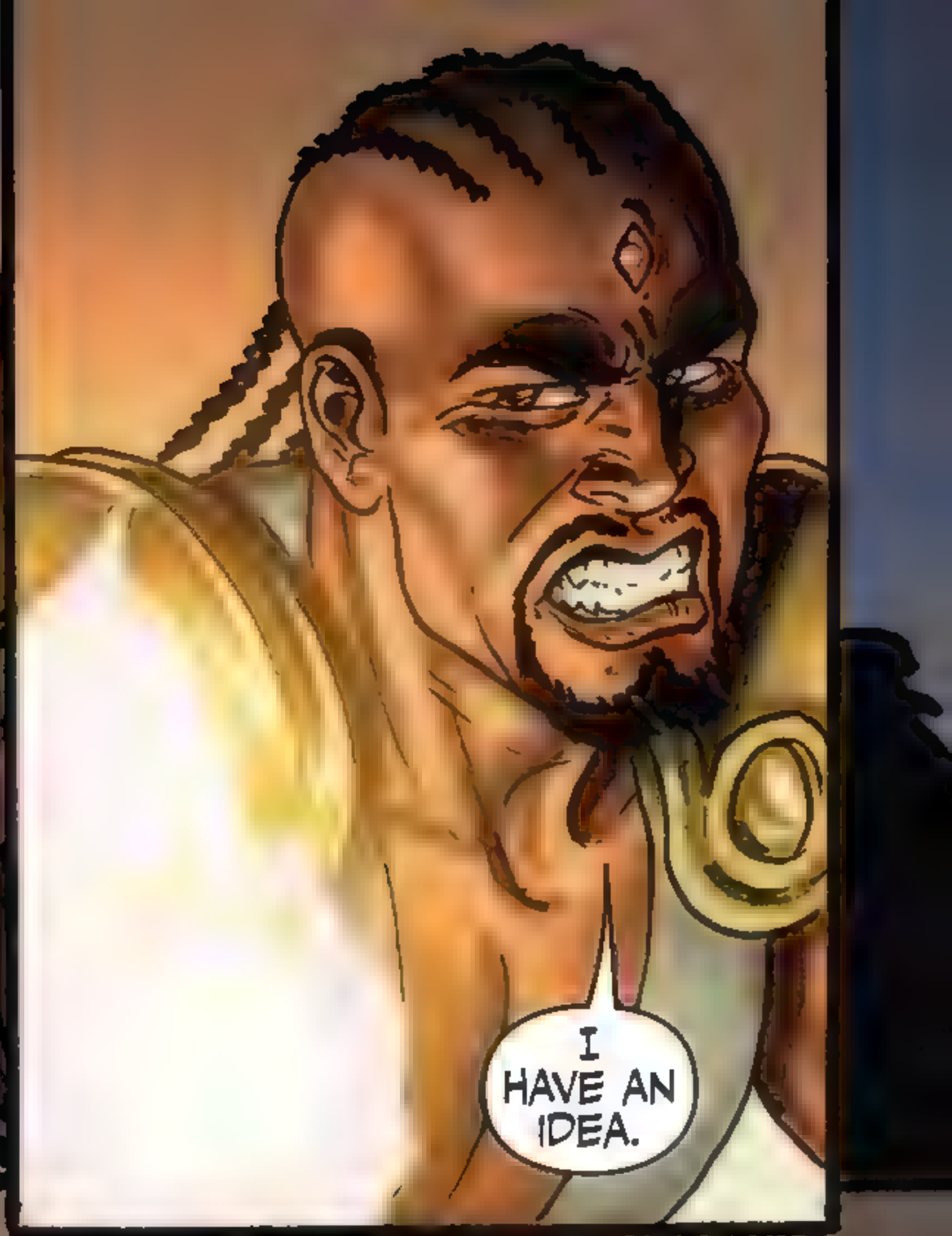








MAYBE
I CAN BURN
IT! IT'S
MESMERIZED BY
THE LIGHT...



I
HAVE AN
IDEA.



I'M
GONNA RUN BACK
WHERE WE CAME FROM
AND YOU GUYS KEEP
GOING. I WILL CATCH
UP TO YOU LATER...

I HOPE...



NICE
OF
YOUR MAN TO
TAKE ONE FOR
THE TEAM.



NOT
HIS MAN, MY
MAN.



ME-OW.
DON'T WORRY,
SWEETIE...HE'S
NOT THAT TYPE
OF GUY.



THIS LIGHT STICK WILL ONLY LAST ANOTHER 15 MINUTES. WE SHOULD BE UNDER THEIR COMPLEX BY THEN.

ANY WORD ON SECURITY THERE?

WE'VE NOTICED THAT MANY OF THE MARTIAN STRONGHOLDS HAVE DIFFERENT PERIMETER SECURITY.

THEY ARE EXCELLENT STRATEGISTS.



SO WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THESE GUYS...THEY WANT TO TAKE OVER THE PLANET AND LIVE HERE OR IS THIS JUST A STOP ON THEIR ROAD TO UNIVERSAL DOMINATION OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF RUMORS...THAT WE ARE ONE OF MANY. THEIR SHIPS LAND HERE REGULARLY AND SET UP LARGE FORTRESSES... BUT WE ALSO NOTICE AT NIGHT, SOME OF THEM HEAD BACK TO WHERE THEY CAME FROM.

THEY WOULD RATHER ROUND US UP THAN KILL US LATELY... WHICH IS MORE DISTURBING.

OUR COMMUNICATIONS ARE ALL WORD OF MOUTH, SO ANY REAL INFORMATION WE GET IS SECONDHAND.



SOUNDS LIKE THEY FOUND SOME KIND OF PURPOSE FOR YOU GUYS. I'M REALLY BEGINNING TO HATE THIS PLACE. IF WE FIND THIS DOCTOR GUY AND HE CAN REALLY WORK THIS TIME TRAVEL THINGY, WE CAN TAKE YOU BOTH BACK WITH US TO OUR TIME.

I UNDERSTAND YOU WANTING TO GO, BUT I WAS BORN OF THIS TIME... THIS IS MY FIGHT AND THESE REMAINING FEW PEOPLE ARE UNDER MY PROTECTION. BECAUSE OF THE ACTIONS OF MY MEN AND I, WE HAVE BECOME SOMETHING MORE THAN A GROUP OF RESISTANCE FIGHTERS...



YOU ARE INSPIRING AND GIVING HOPE. I RESPECT THAT. I SUGGEST WE PICK UP THE PACE AT THIS POINT THEN...



LOOKS LIKE A DEAD END.

THE WATER HAS LIGHT COMING FROM IT.

SOME OF THE TUNNELS MUST HAVE COLLAPSED AND BROKEN THE WATER MAIN UNDER THEM.

BY THE LOOKS OF IT, THERE IS SOME KIND OF ACID IN THE WATER. LOGAN...



WAY AHEAD OF YOU.



HMMM, NOTHING SO FAR...ALMOST A MINUTE.



HMMM, STARTING TO TINGLE...

WE'RE ABOUT TWO MINUTES NOW... CORRECT?



JUST ABOUT...



OKAY. IT'S STARTING TO EAT THROUGH MY SKIN. THAT GIVES US ABOUT 4 MINUTES.

ARE YOU OKAY? IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HURTING YOU AT ALL.



IT HURTS, BUT ONLY FOR A SECOND...I HAVE A HEALING FACTOR THAT PROTECTS ME FROM SUCH STUFF.

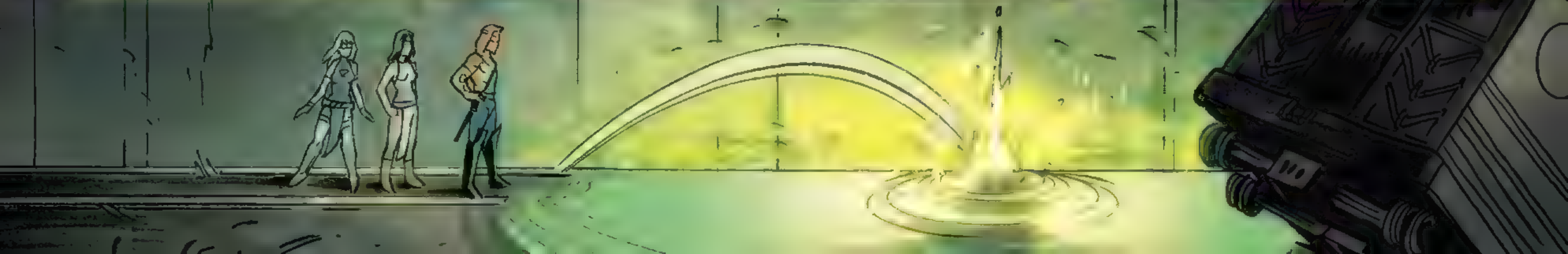
WHEN WE GET THE TIME, I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT.



WHAT I'M GOING TO DO IS DIVE IN AND SEE WHAT'S AHEAD.

IF IT LOOKS CLEAR AND IS UNDER A FEW MINUTES DIVE, WE CAN FIGURE IT FROM THERE.

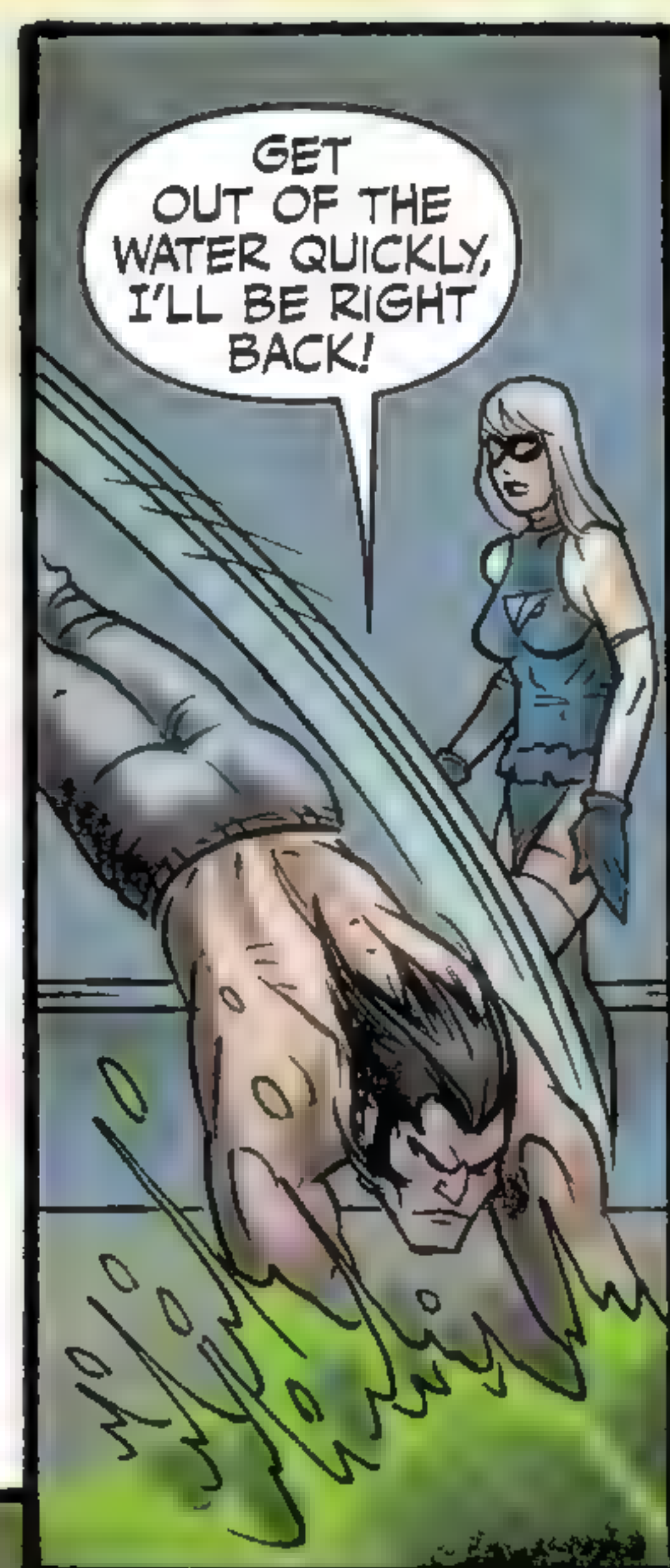
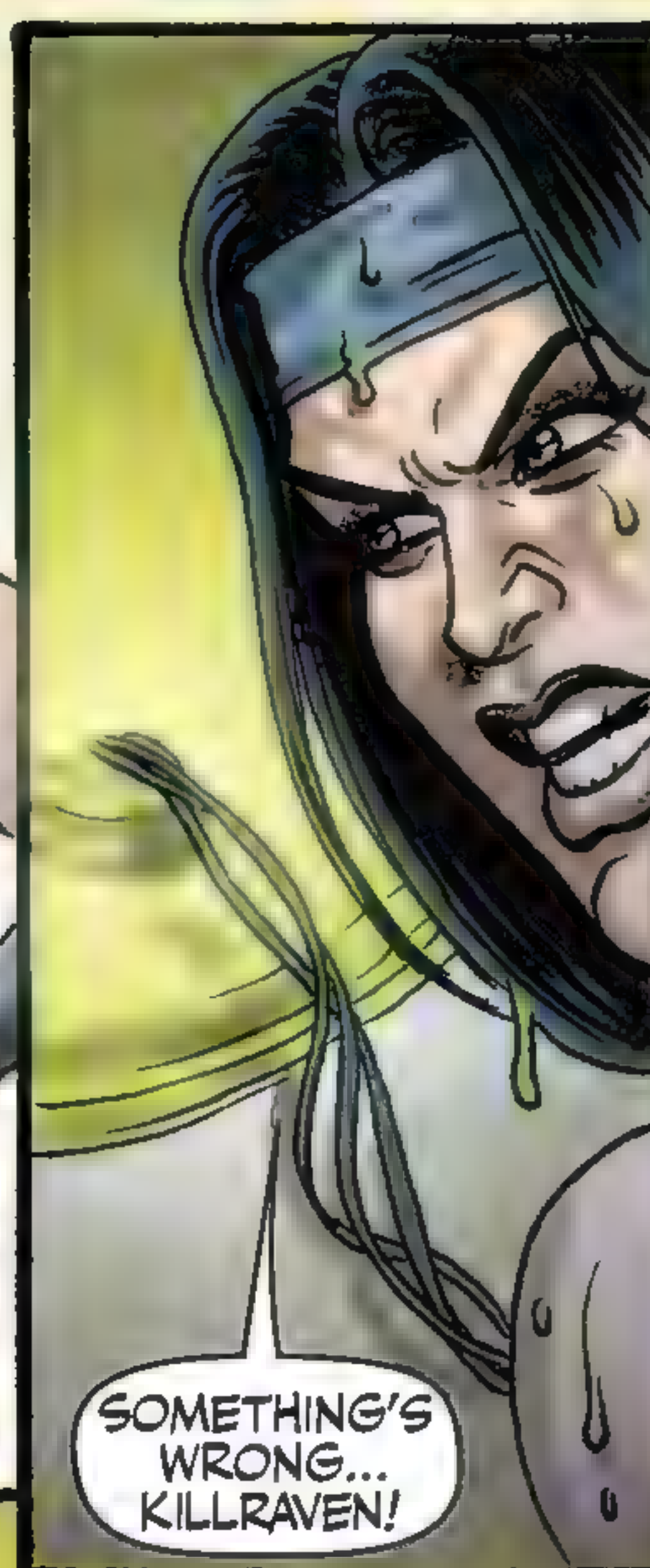
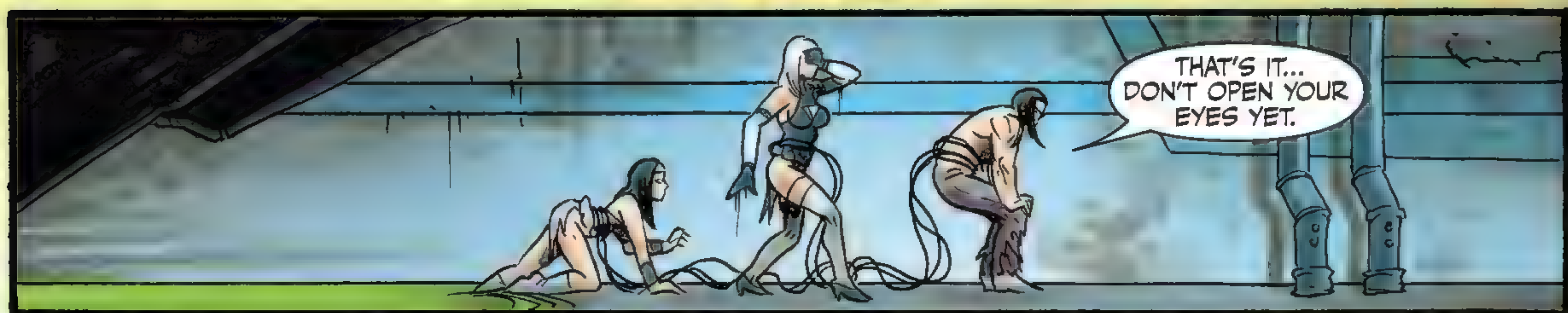
LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

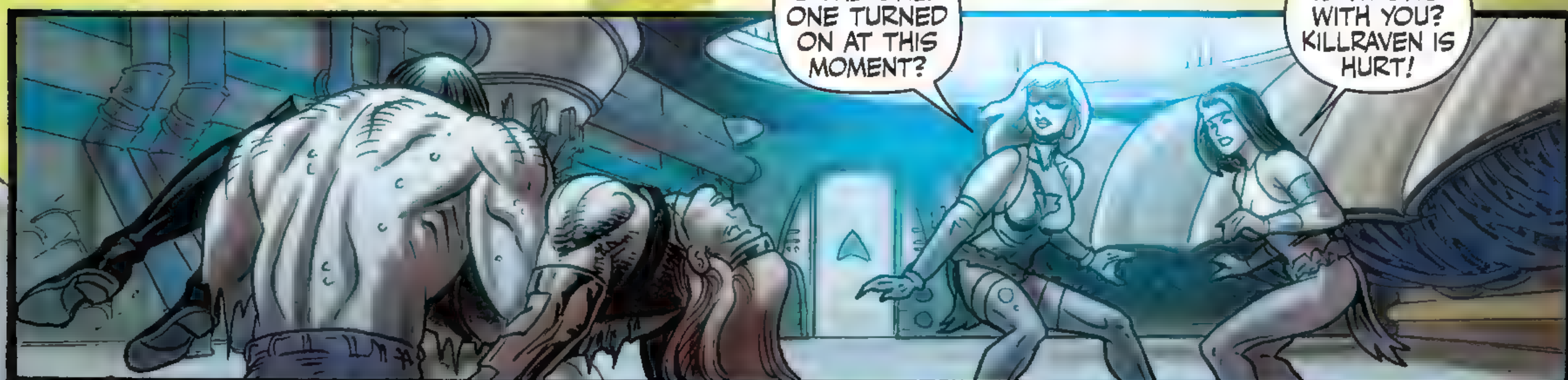




IT'S ONLY A 3-MINUTE SWIM TO THE OTHER SIDE. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO STAY CLOSE TO ME. NONE OF YOU WILL BE ABLE TO OPEN YOUR EYES.

WE CAN USE SOME OF THE WIRE INSTEAD OF ROPE THEN.





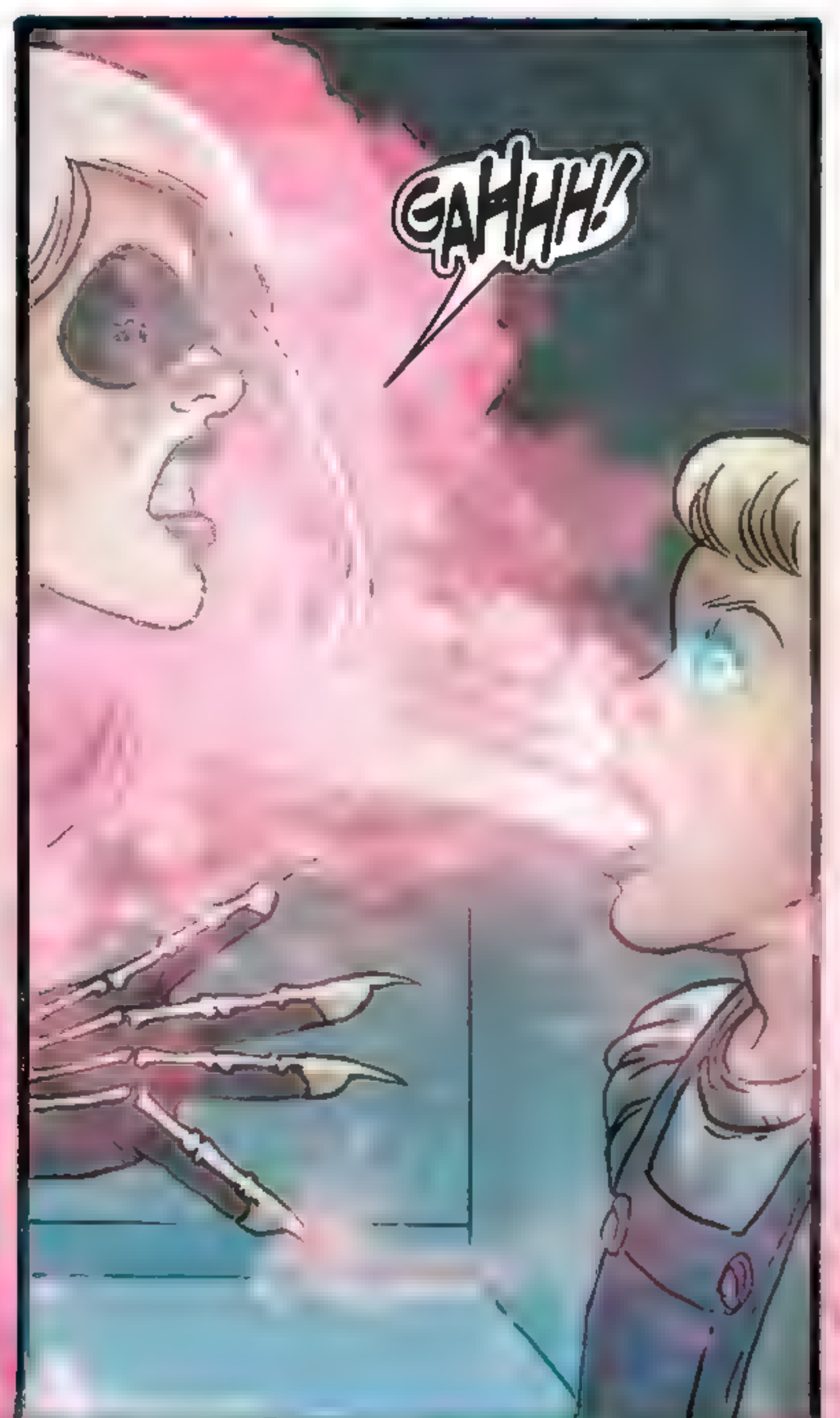
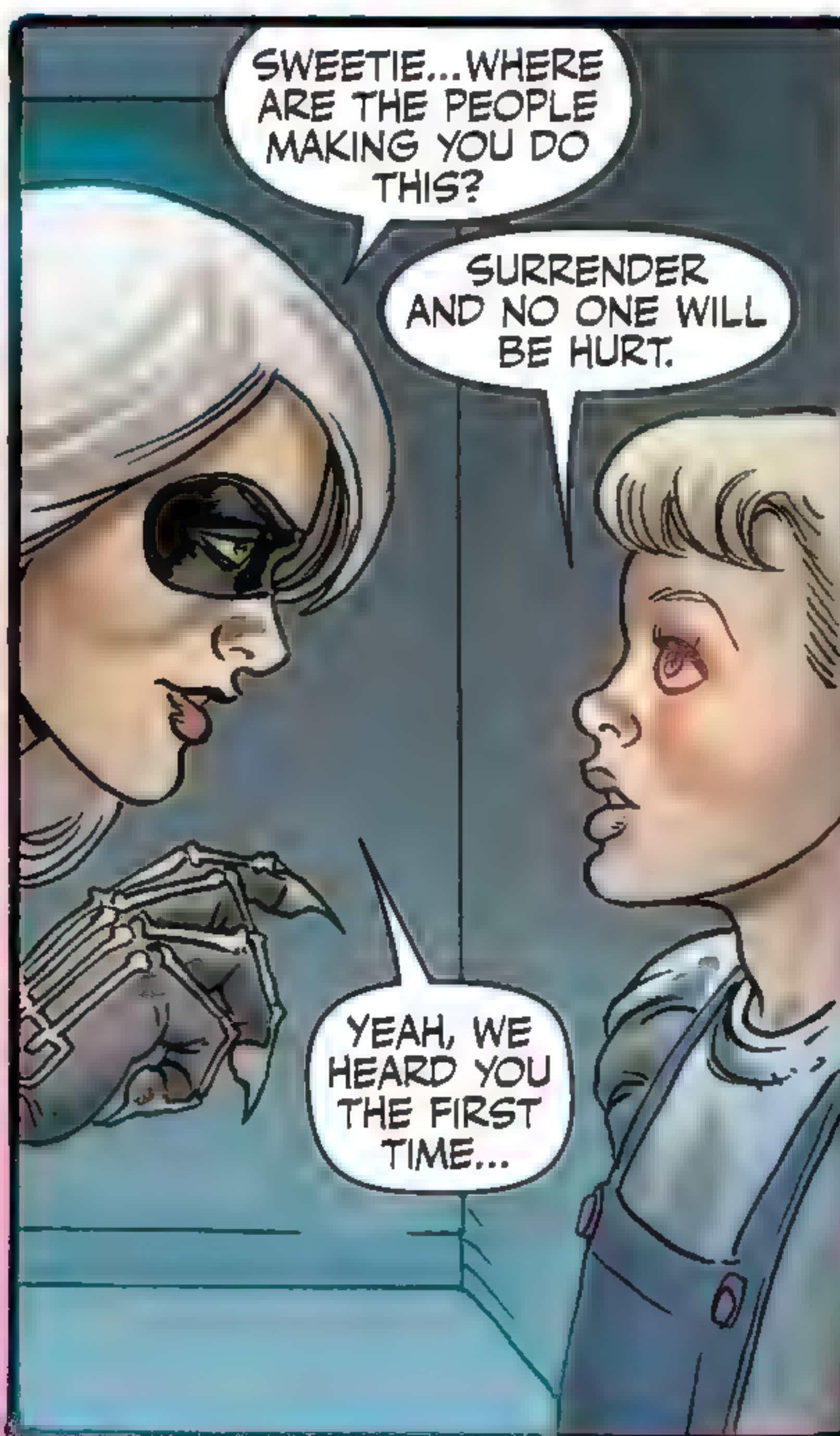
AM
I THE ONLY
ONE TURNED
ON AT THIS
MOMENT?

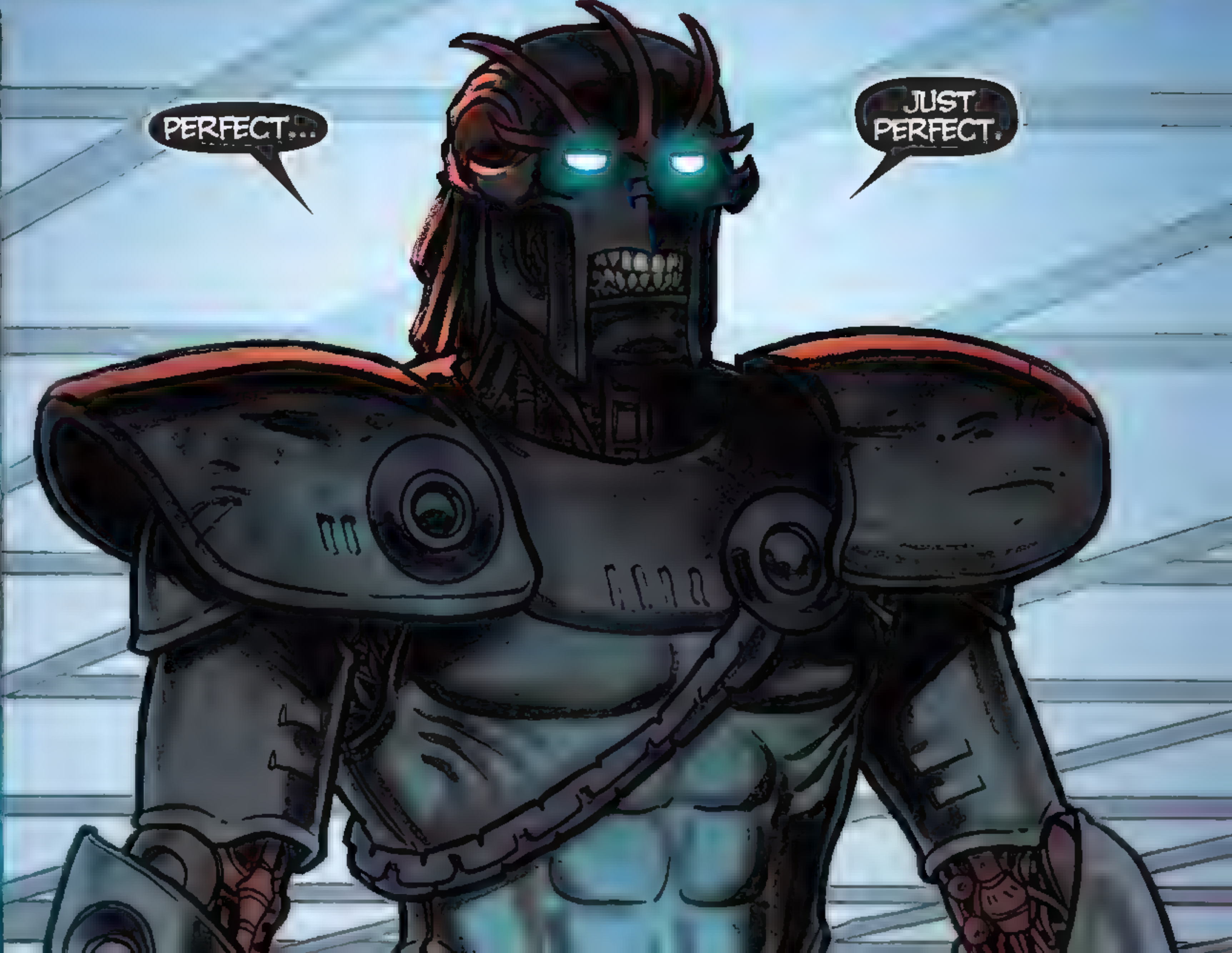
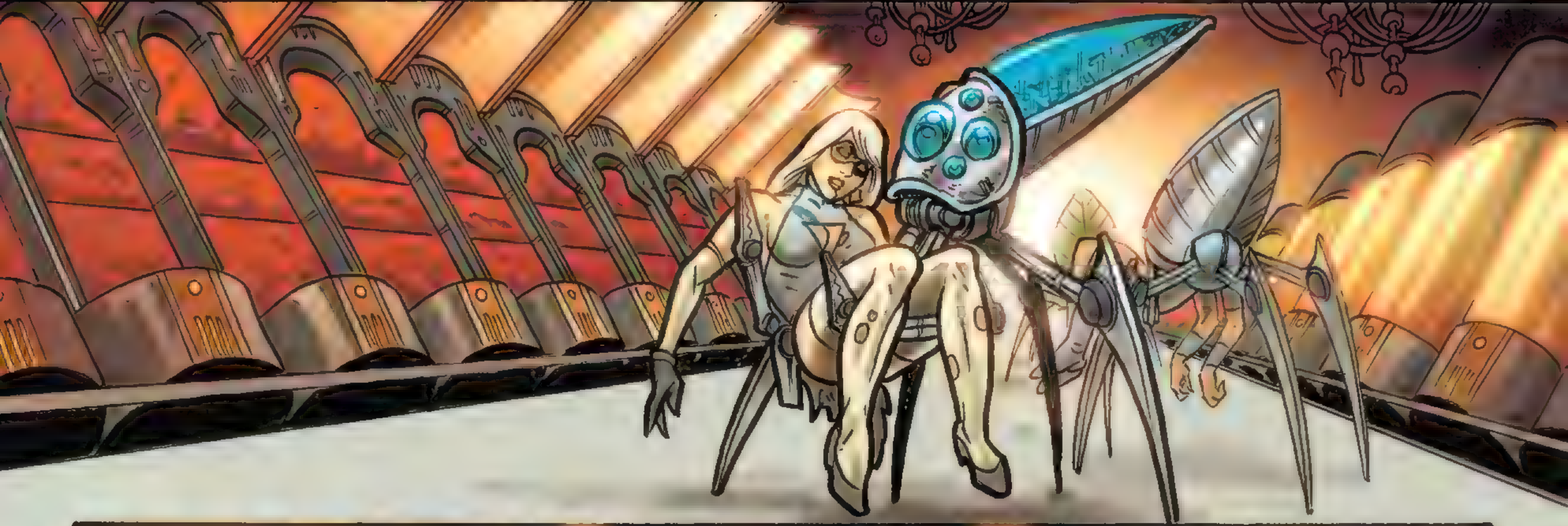
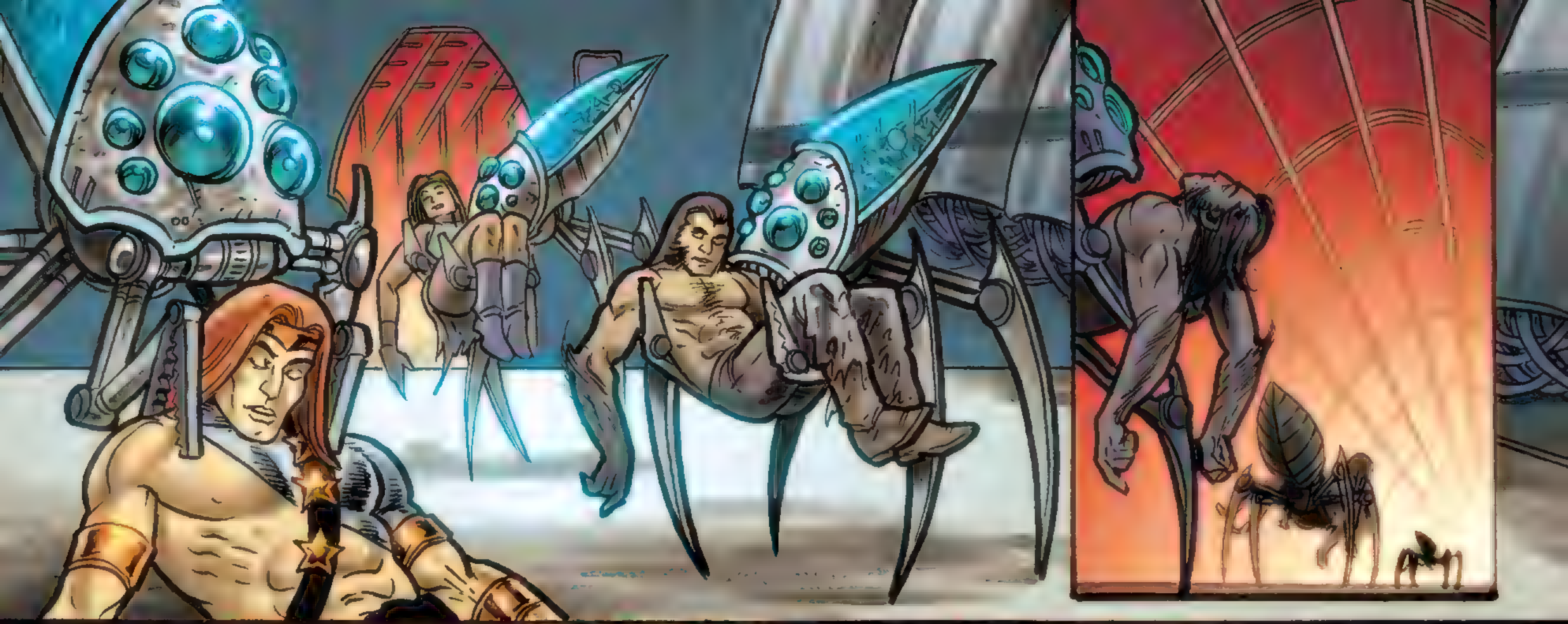
WHAT
IS WRONG
WITH YOU?
KILLRAVEN IS
HURT!



MORE LIKE PASSED OUT...
HE GOT AN ELECTRIC SHOCK
FROM SOME KIND OF SECURITY
REPTILE. HE SHOULD BE
FINE.

PROBLEM IS, WHOEVER
IS RUNNING THIS PLACE
NOW KNOWS WE ARE
HERE.



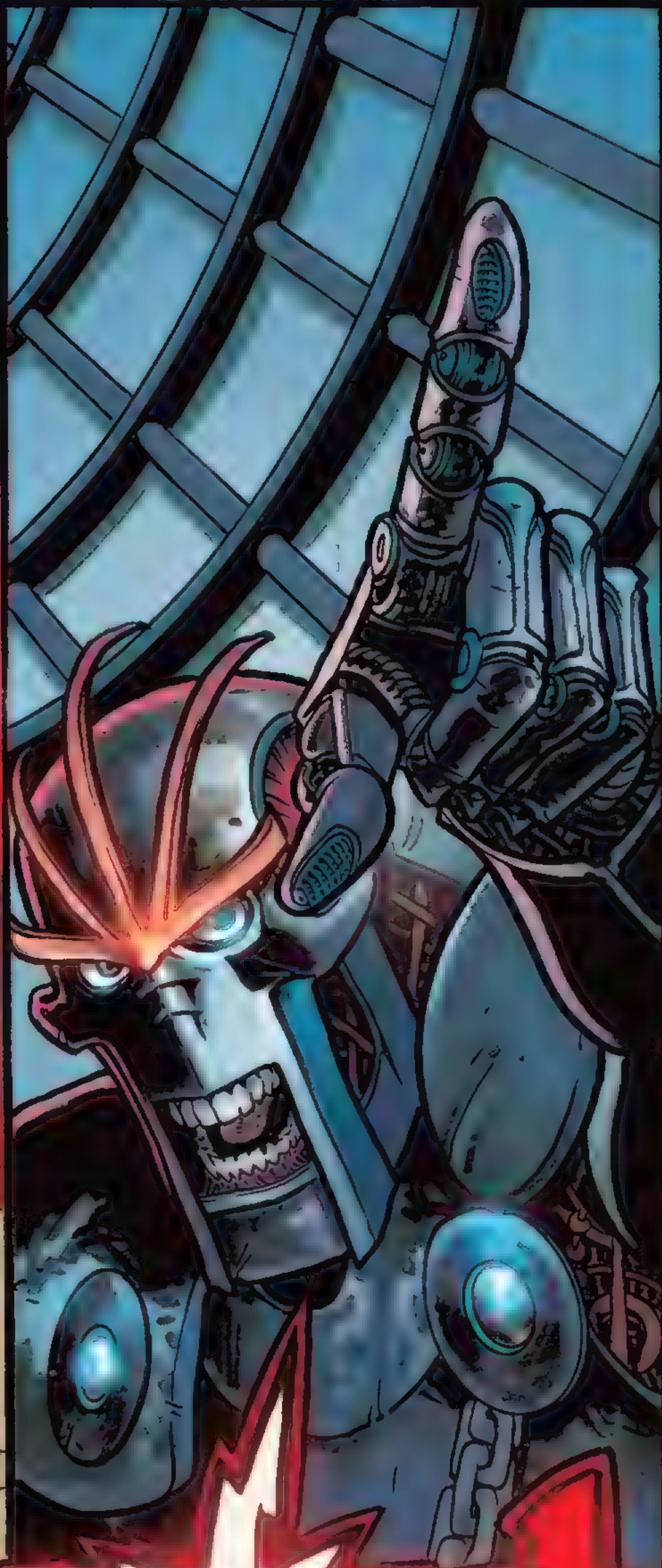




HIGH
COMMAND WILL
BE VERY PLEASED
WITH OUR SLAVE
CARGO.

START
THE LAUNCH
SEQUENCE.

DESTINATION:



MARS!

Continued
next issue!

MARVEL

**LIMITED
SERIES**

3 OF 3

PALMIOTTI

GRAY

LINSNER

BROWN

WOLVERINE & THE BLACK CAT

SLAYERS

TM

11





CLAWS 2

BACK AND FORTH

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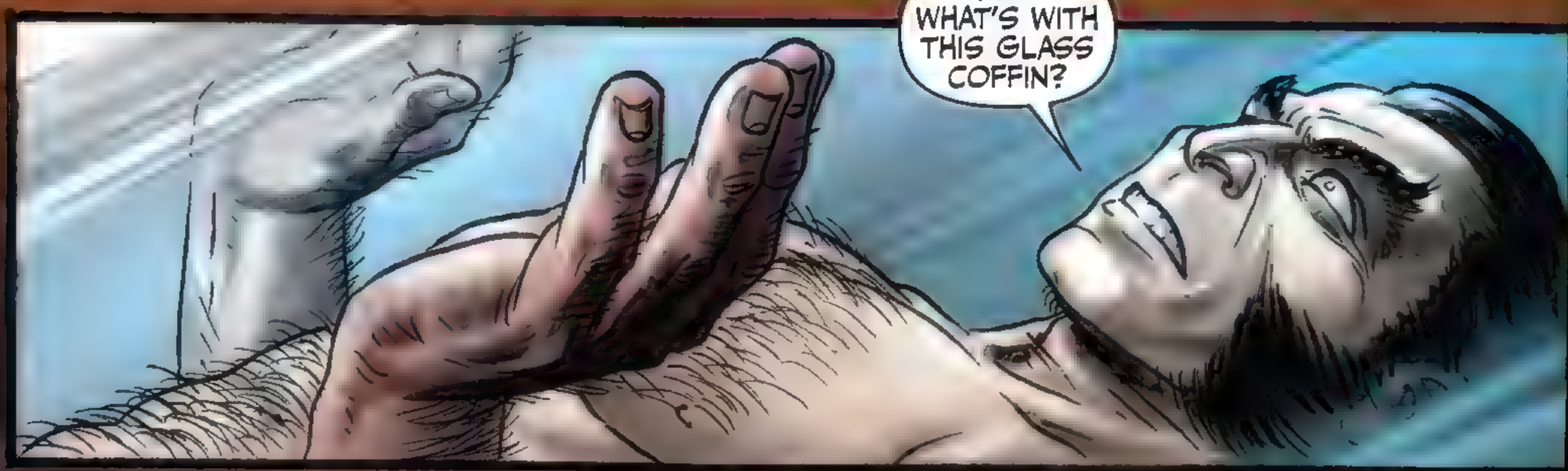
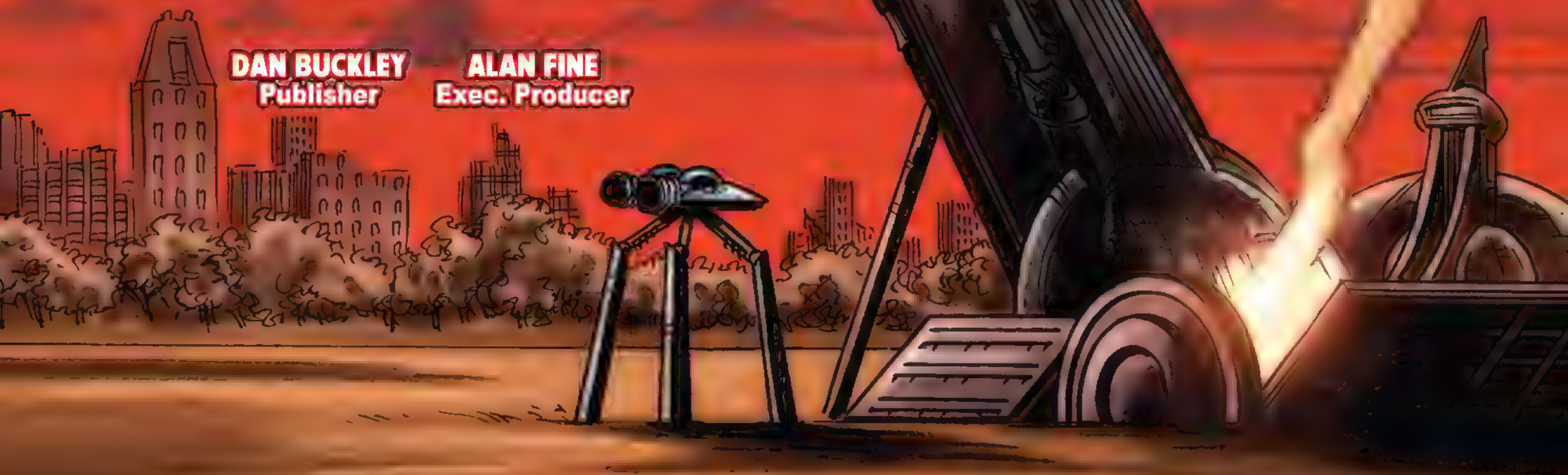
MARK PANICCIA
Editor

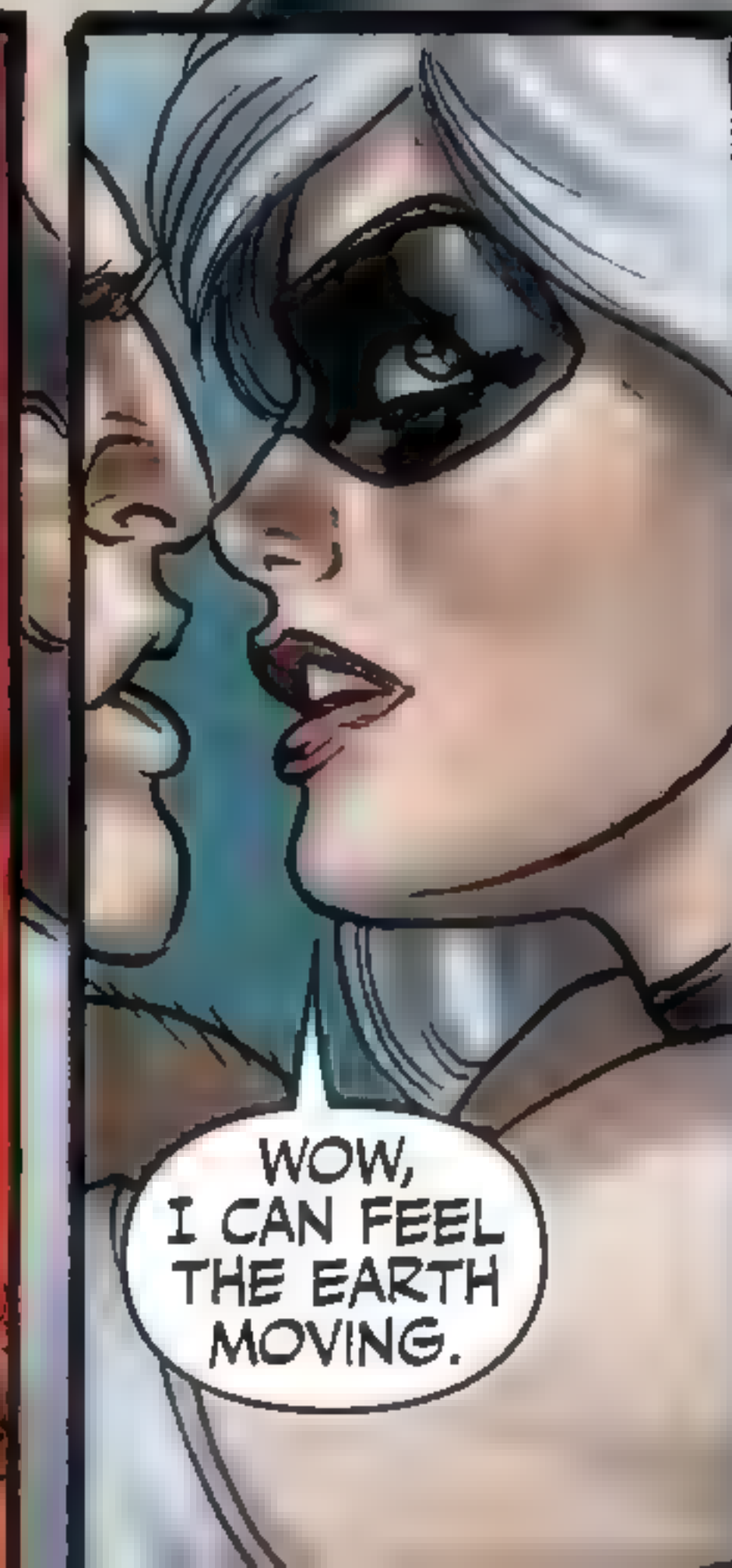
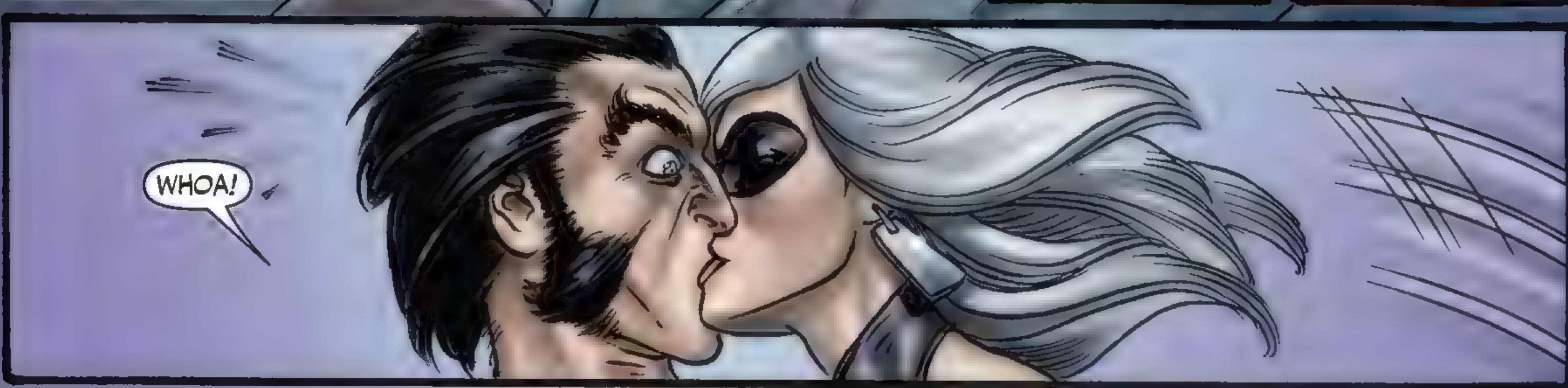
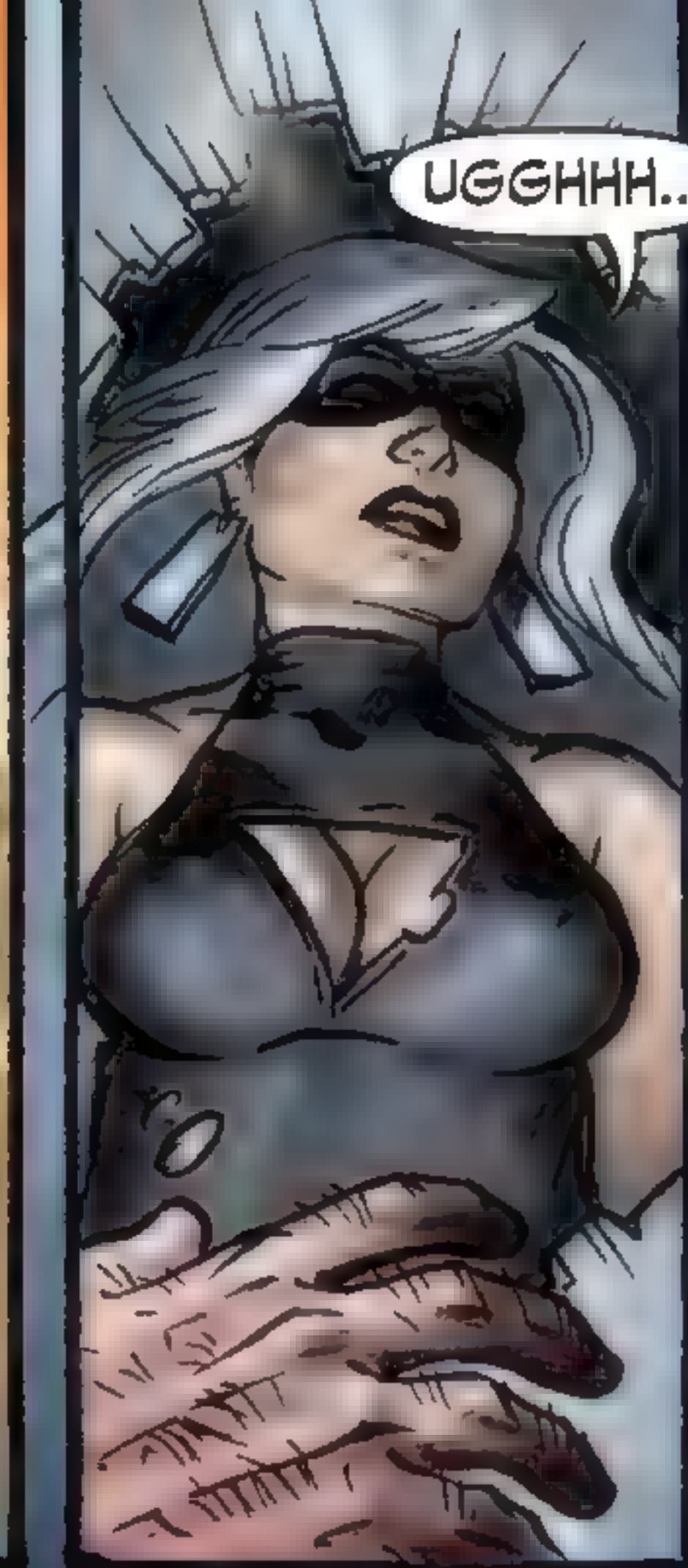
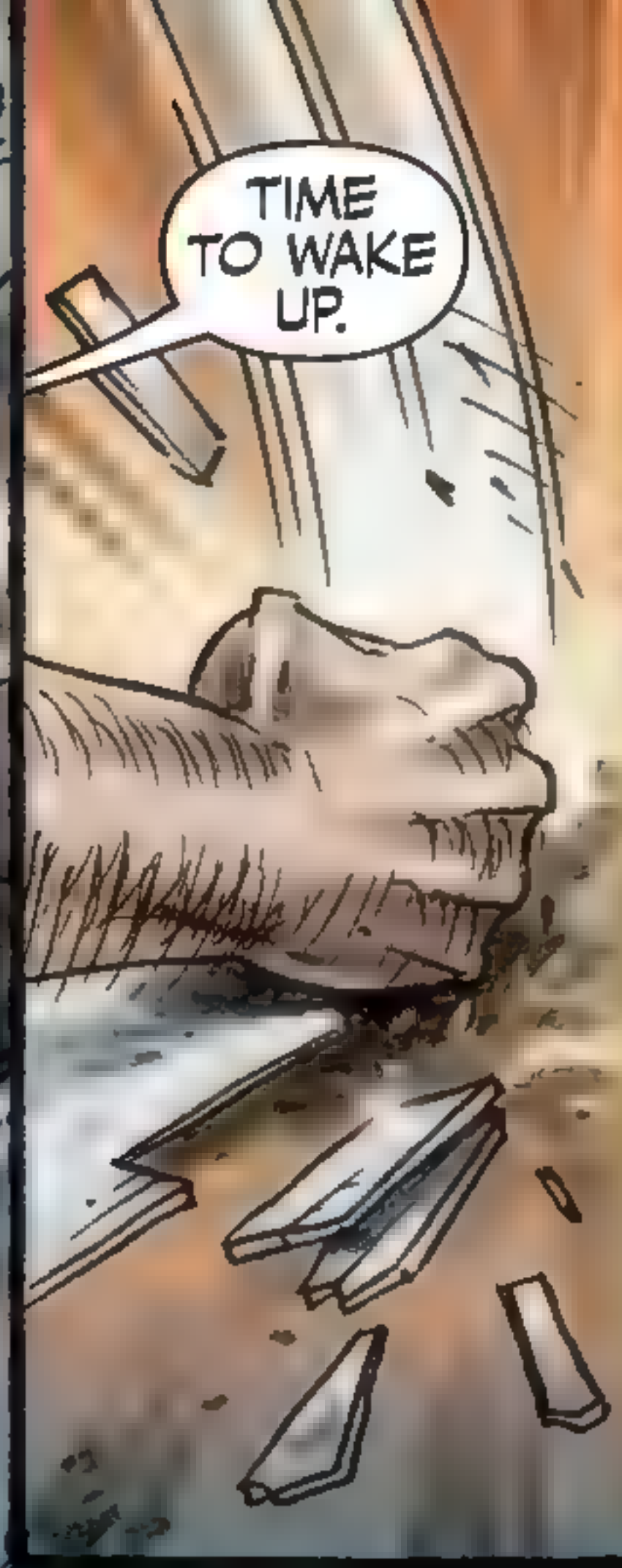
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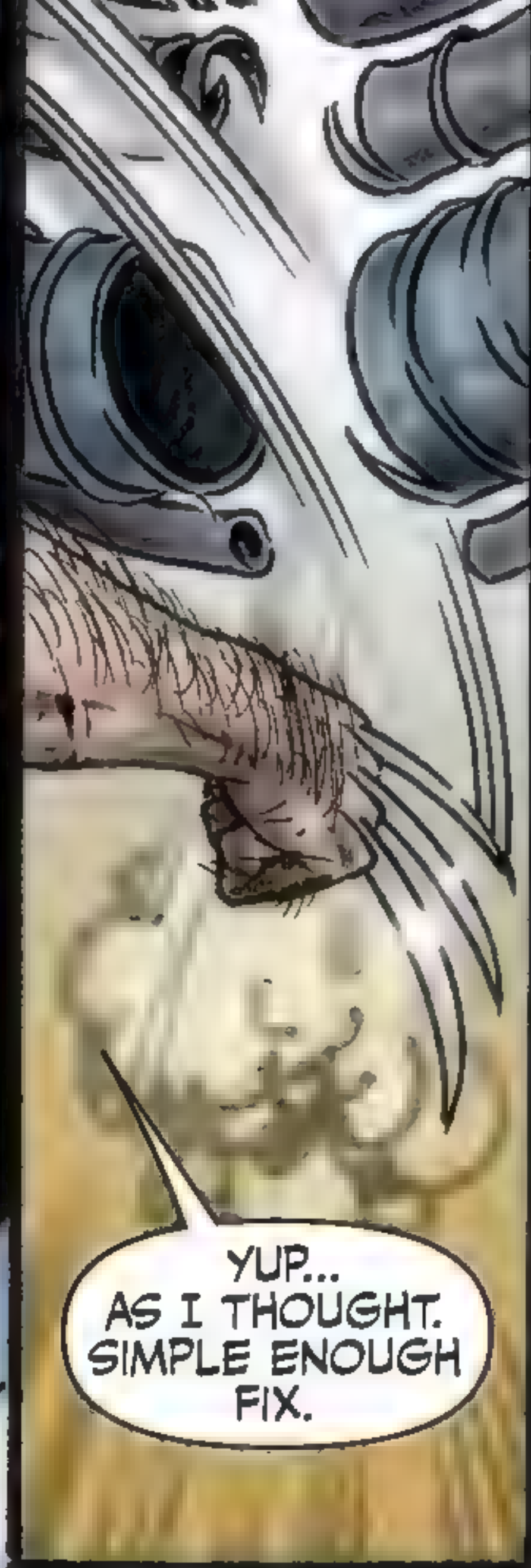
THAT'S NOT ME, DARLIN'...I THINK WE'RE TAKING OFF SOMEWHERE. WE'RE IN A SHIP. A BIG ONE.

THAT GAS PACKED A PUNCH, BUT IT WASN'T A MATCH FOR MY HEALING POWERS.

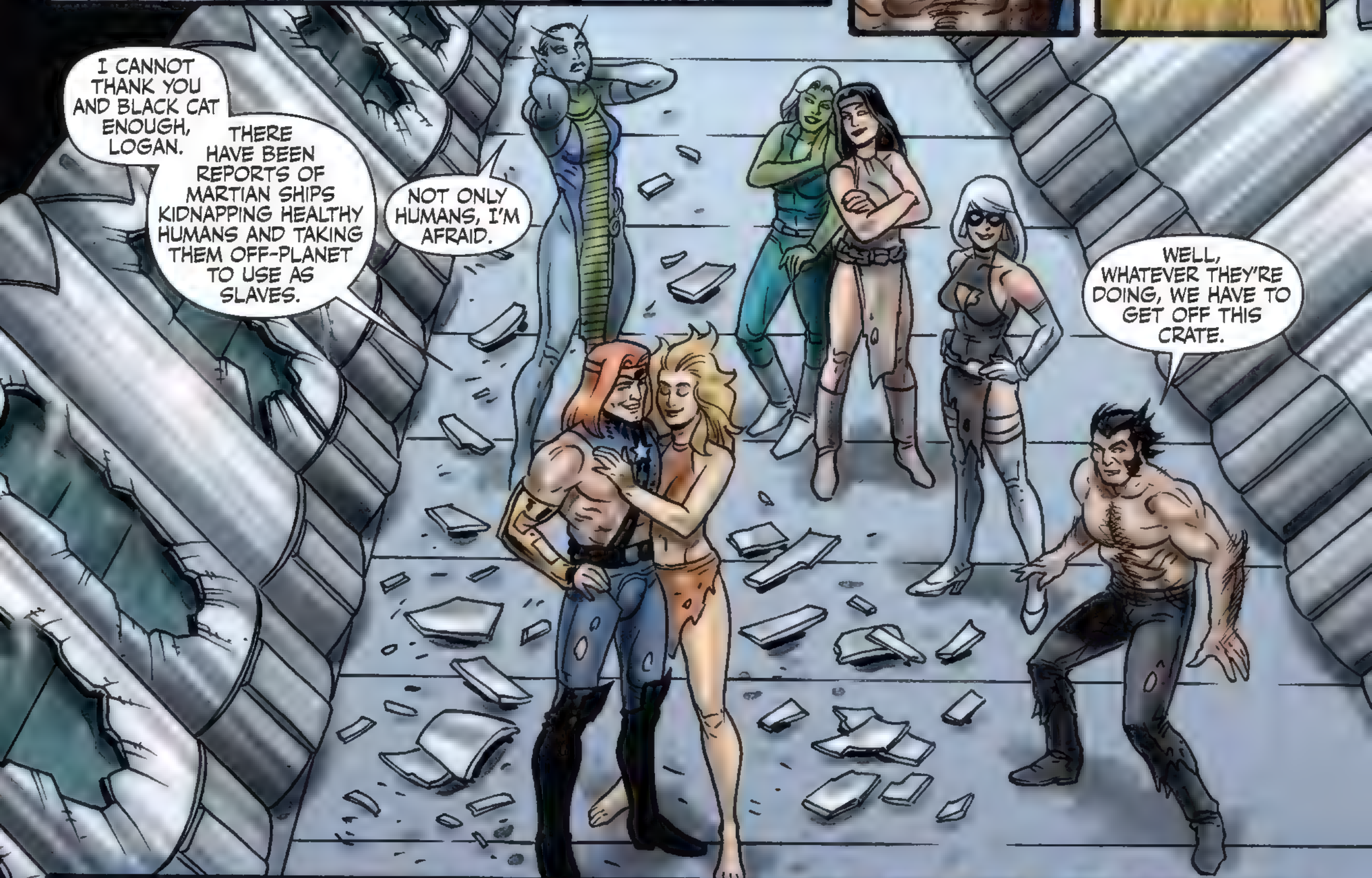
THANK GOODNESS. LET'S GET KILL-RAVEN AND HIS CREW UP AND AT THEM AND THE HELL OUT OF HERE.



THEY MUST BE PUMPING THIS GAS FROM SOMEWHERE...



YUP... AS I THOUGHT. SIMPLE ENOUGH FIX.



I CANNOT THANK YOU AND BLACK CAT ENOUGH, LOGAN.

THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF MARTIAN SHIPS KIDNAPPING HEALTHY HUMANS AND TAKING THEM OFF-PLANET TO USE AS SLAVES.

NOT ONLY HUMANS, I'M AFRAID.

WELL, WHATEVER THEY'RE DOING, WE HAVE TO GET OFF THIS CRATE.



HALT!

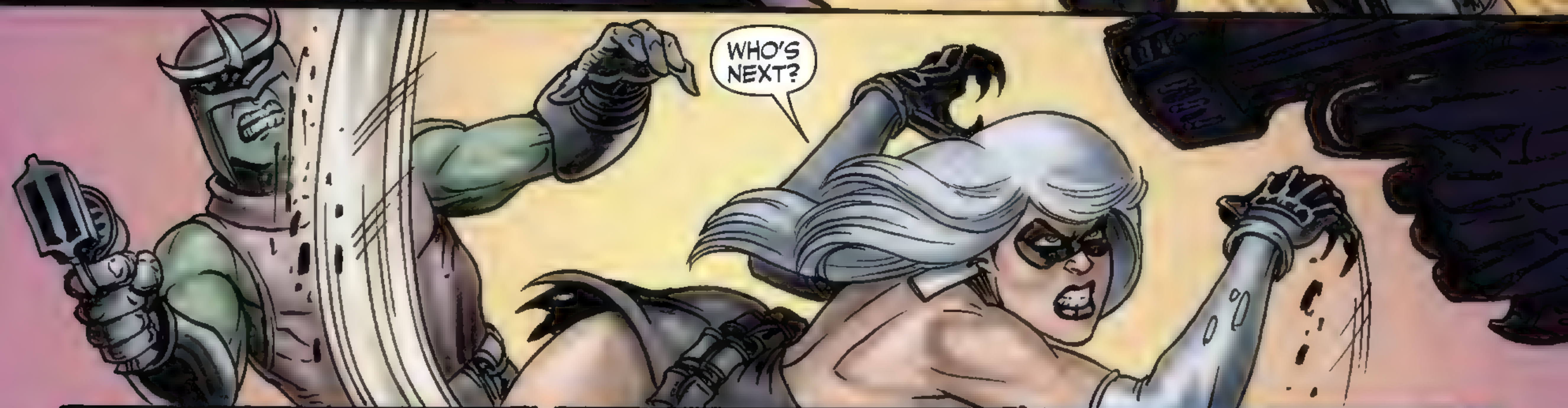
LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE COMPANY.

ALLOW ME.



SUBMIT
BEFORE YOU ARE
EXTERMINATED,
HUMAN!

I
DON'T THINK
SO.

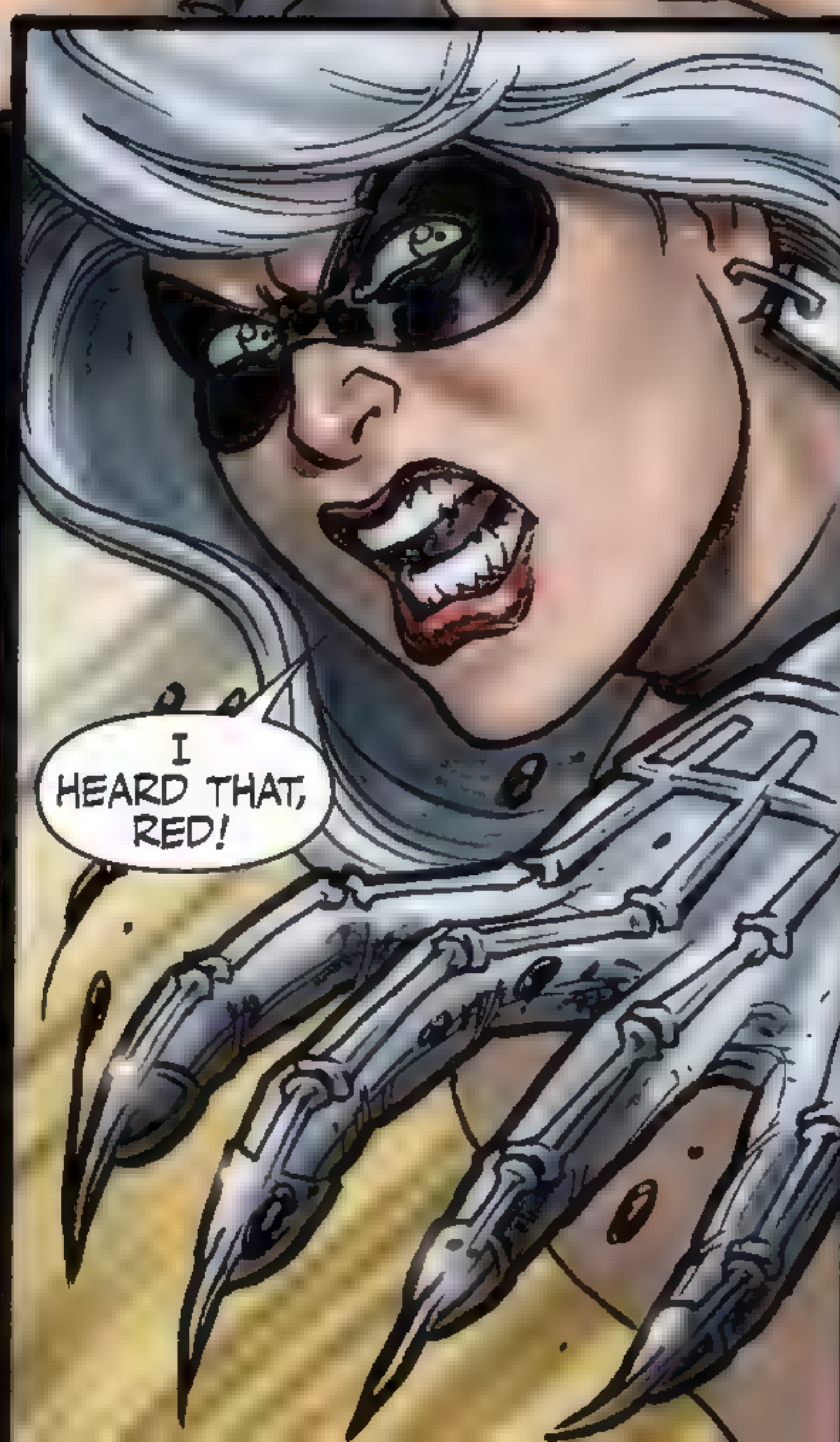


WHO'S
NEXT?

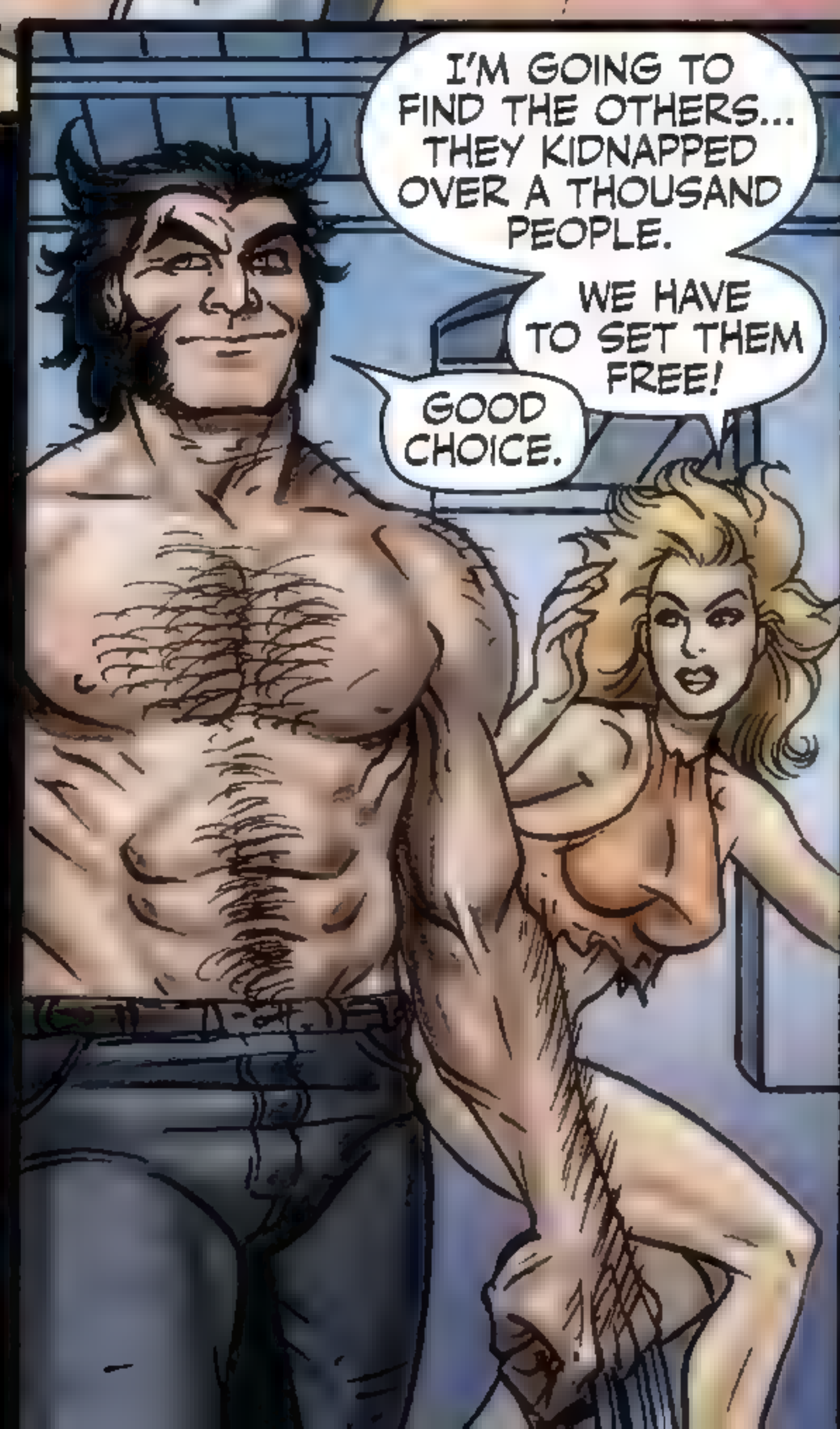


GOTTA
ADMIRE THOSE
MOVES.

I DO... SHE
SEEMS
CRAZY.



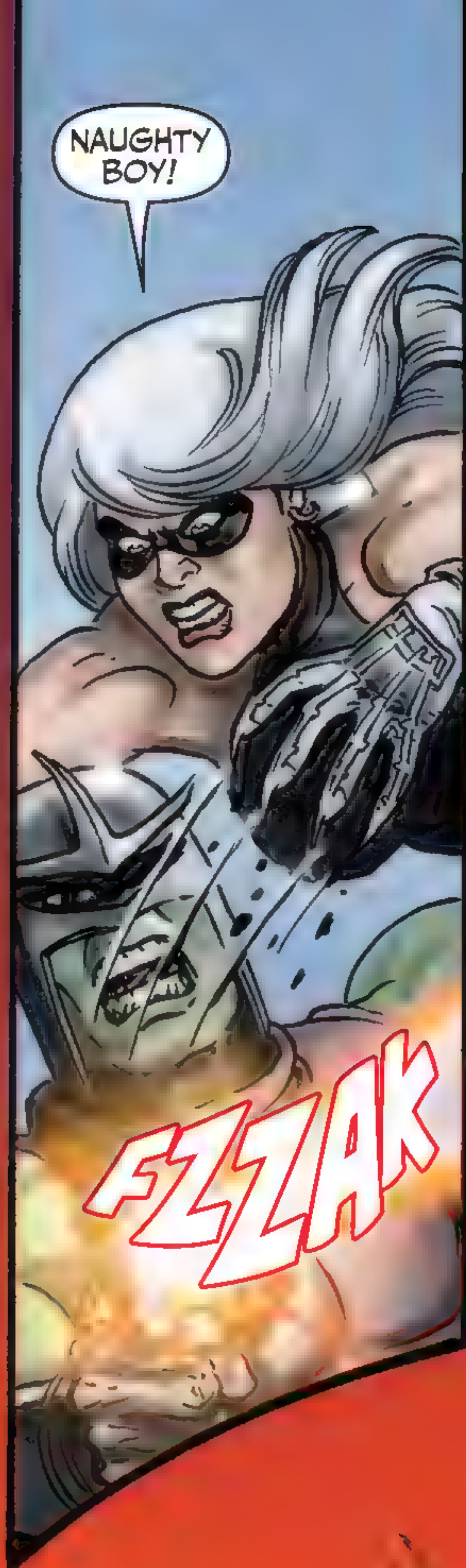
I
HEARD THAT,
RED!



I'M GOING TO
FIND THE OTHERS...
THEY KIDNAPPED
OVER A THOUSAND
PEOPLE.

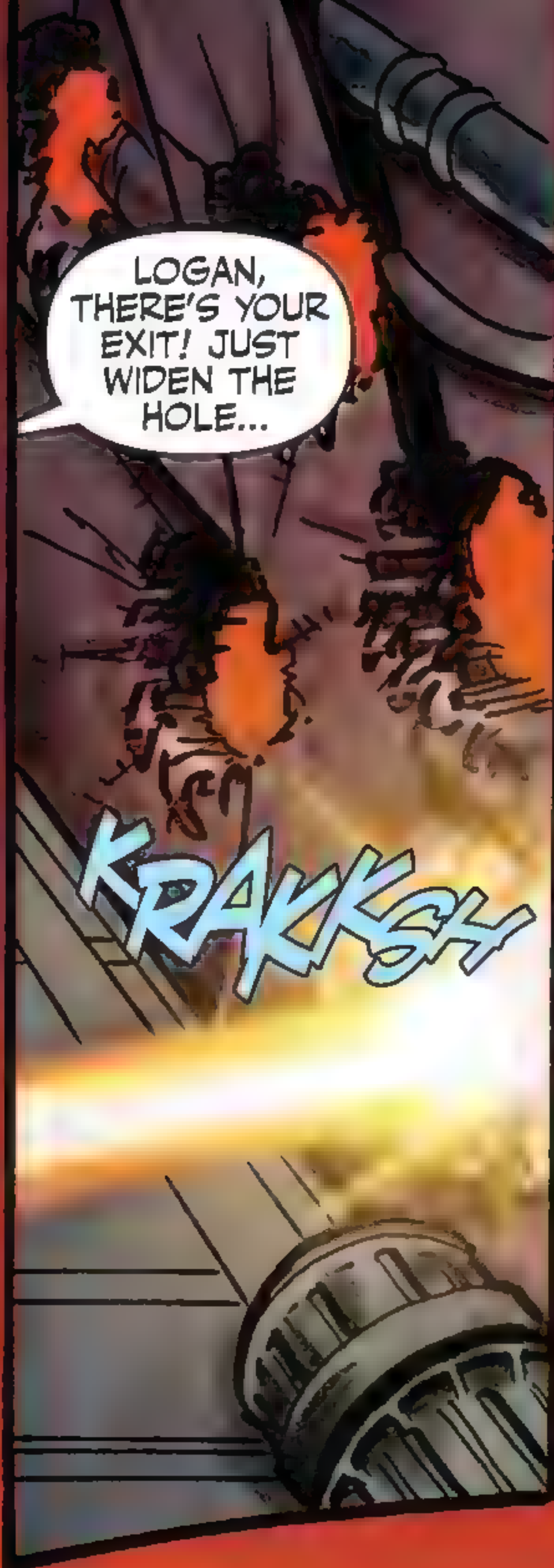
WE HAVE
TO SET THEM
FREE!

GOOD
CHOICE.



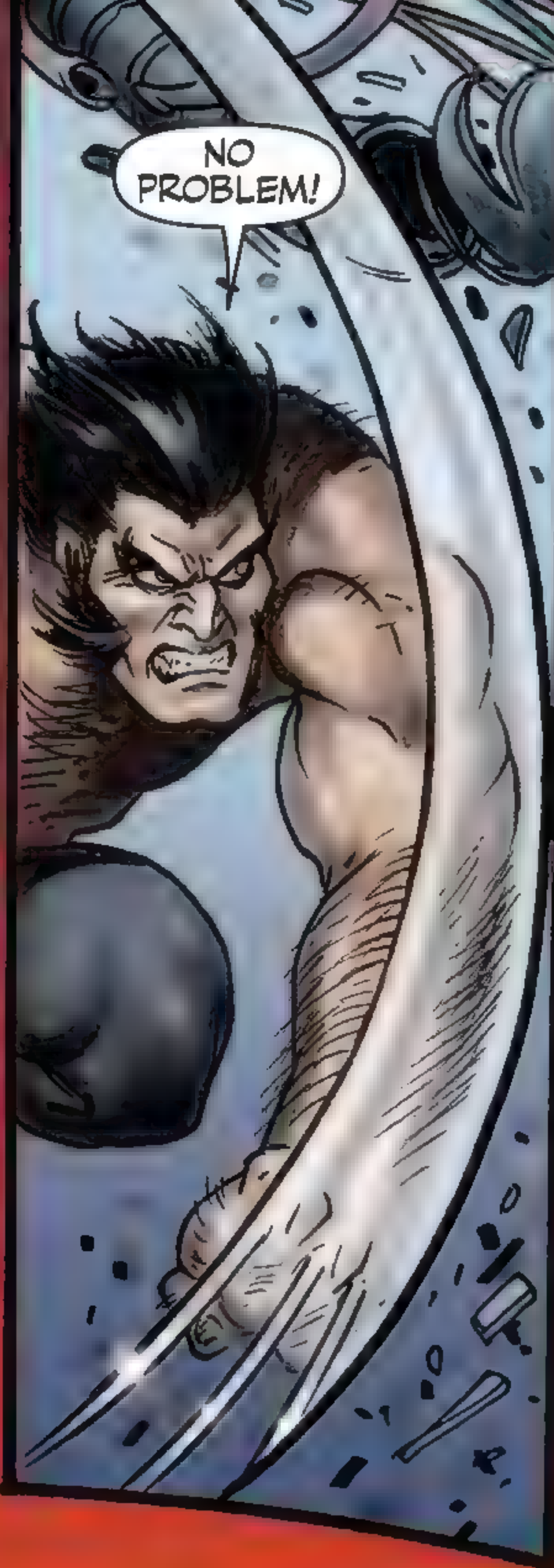
NAUGHTY BOY!

FZZAK



LOGAN, THERE'S YOUR EXIT! JUST WIDEN THE HOLE...

KRAKKSH



NO PROBLEM!



I DON'T THINK THAT WAS A VERY GOOD IDEA...

DID I MENTION I HATE ALIEN SHIPS?



BOOOOMMMMM!



EVERYONE HOLD ON!



FOLLOW ME! THIS WAY TO SAFETY!



THAT WAS UNPLEASANT!

KILLRAVEN IS LEADING HIS PEOPLE OUT SAFELY... AND YOU SAVED MY LIFE. HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU?

YOU'LL HAVE YOUR CHANCE SOON ENOUGH...LET'S GET CLEAR OF THIS THING BEFORE IT EXPLODES...



LOGAN.

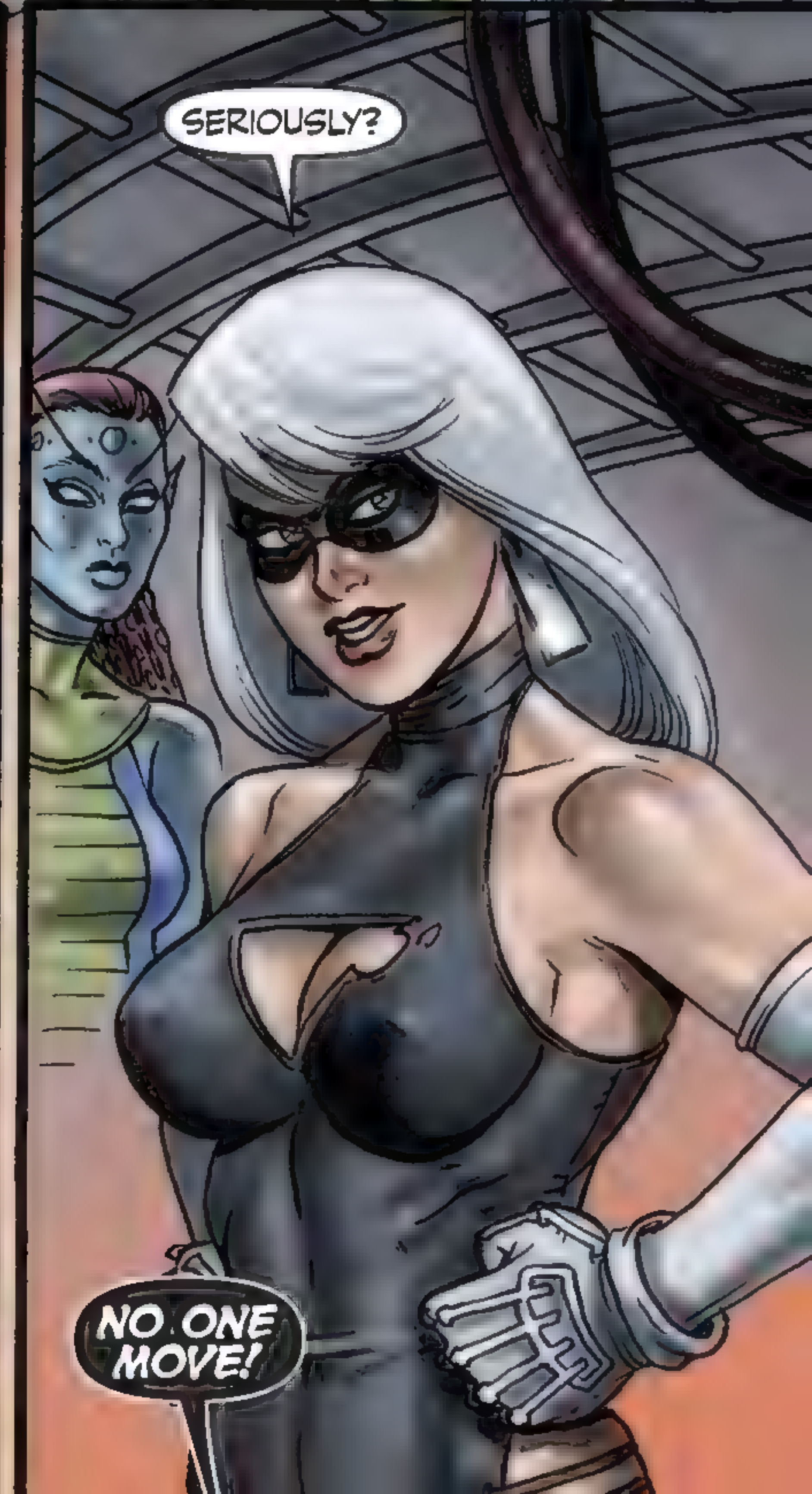
UH... YEAH.

LET ME GIVE YOU A HAND.



INTERESTING.

YOU SURE ARE.



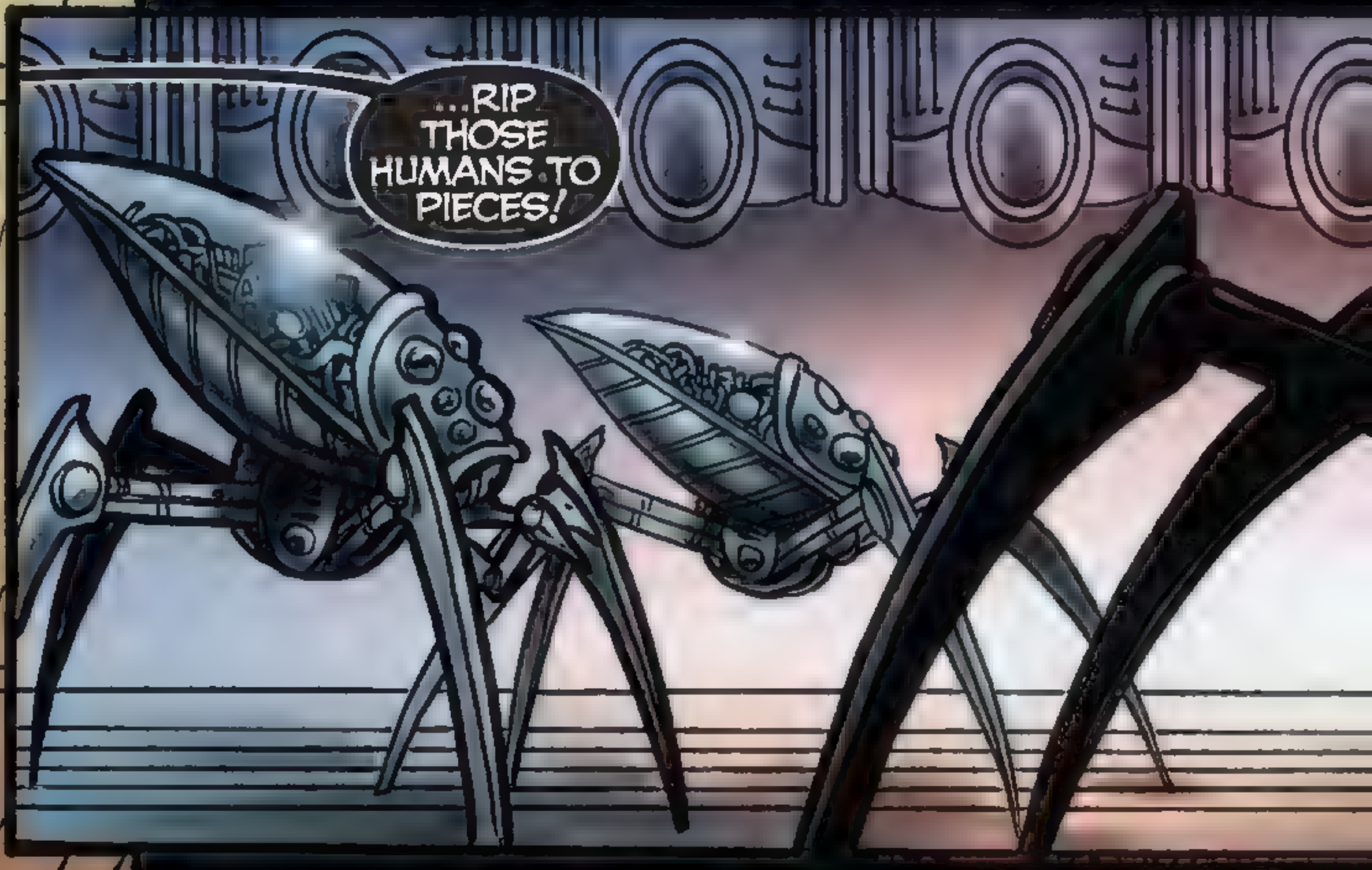
SERIOUSLY?

NO ONE MOVE!



YOU LOWLY EARTH SCUM WILL NEVER LEAVE THIS SHIP ALIVE!!!

GO, MY PETS...



...RIP THOSE HUMANS TO PIECES!



THESE ARE YOUR PETS?



WE NEED TO PROTECT CIVA... CAN YOU GET HER TO SAFETY?

BUT THERE ARE MORE CREATURES COMING! YOU WILL NEED MY HELP!

YOU'RE RIGHT...WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP, BUT NOT HERE AND NOT NOW! FOLLOW ME!

A comic book panel showing Wolverine and Jean Grey. Wolverine is on the left, shirtless and muscular, with a determined and angry expression. Jean Grey is on the right, with her long blonde hair flowing, wearing an orange top and pointing her finger at Wolverine. They are in a dark, industrial environment with mechanical parts visible in the background.

THE BIG ONE
IS THE EXTRACTOR...THE
ONE THAT TORTURED ME. THE
OTHER MARTIAN IS KNOWN
ONLY AS OVERLORD
OMEGA.

A comic book panel showing Jean Grey in a dynamic pose, lunging forward and attacking a Martian soldier. She is wearing a bikini-style outfit. The soldier is wearing a dark, full-body suit with a helmet and a visor. The background is a bright, yellowish light.

YOU
DARE
LAY YOUR
HANDS
ON--

I
DARE, ALL
RIGHT!

A comic book panel showing Wolverine from the chest up, holding a large, complex mechanical claw or weapon. He has a fierce expression. The background is dark and industrial.

FINE.
YOU GET YOUR
PAYBACK AND I'LL
KEEP THE REST OF
THESE BUGS BUSY,
HOT STUFF.

A comic book panel showing a close-up of a Martian's face. The Martian has a large, metallic, and somewhat grotesque appearance with multiple eyes and a wide, toothy mouth. It is speaking.

STUPID
HUMAN...

A comic book panel showing Wolverine in a combat stance, holding his claws. He is surrounded by several Martian soldiers. One Martian is in the foreground, looking up at Wolverine. The background is dark and industrial.

IT'S
USELESS,
HUMAN.
YOU ARE OUT-
NUMBERED!

SO
PATHETIC.

A large comic book panel showing a close-up of Wolverine's face. He is looking directly at the viewer with a intense, angry expression. His eyes are visible, and his fur is detailed. The background is dark and industrial.

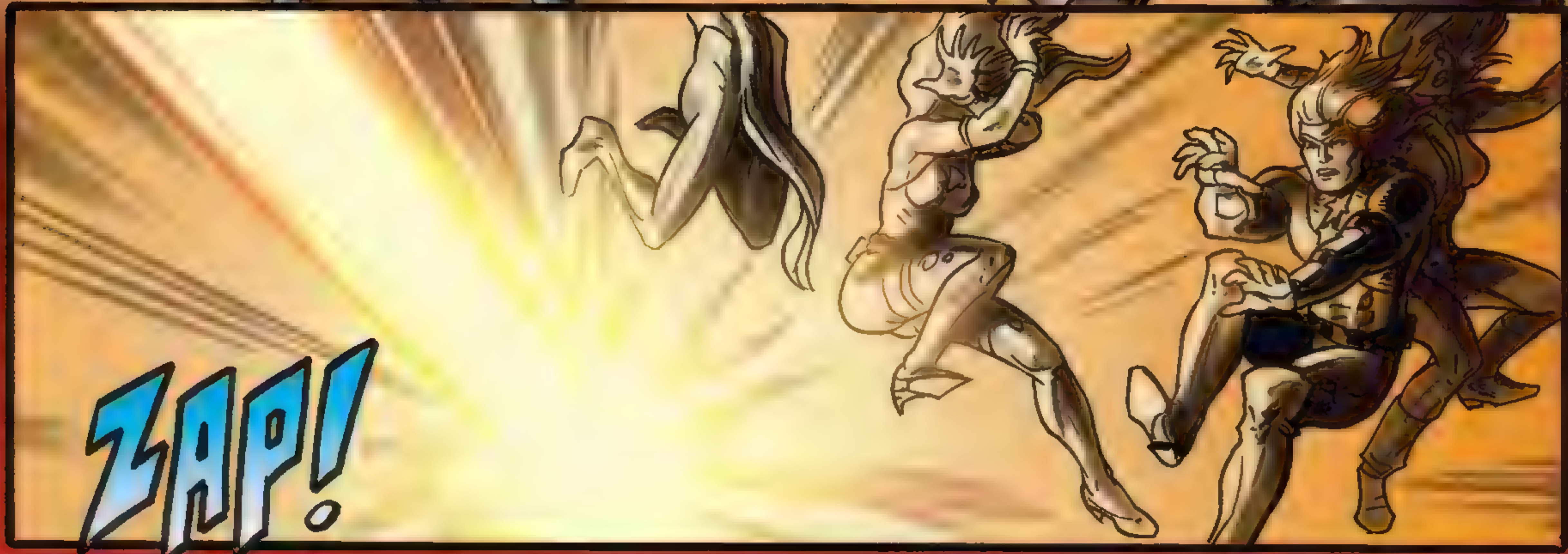
DID YOU
JUST CALL ME
PATHETIC?



WHERE
ARE VOLCANA AND
LOGAN?

THEY'LL BE
OUT SOON...

THEY'RE
TAKING CARE OF
SOME UNFINISHED
BUSINESS.



ZAP!



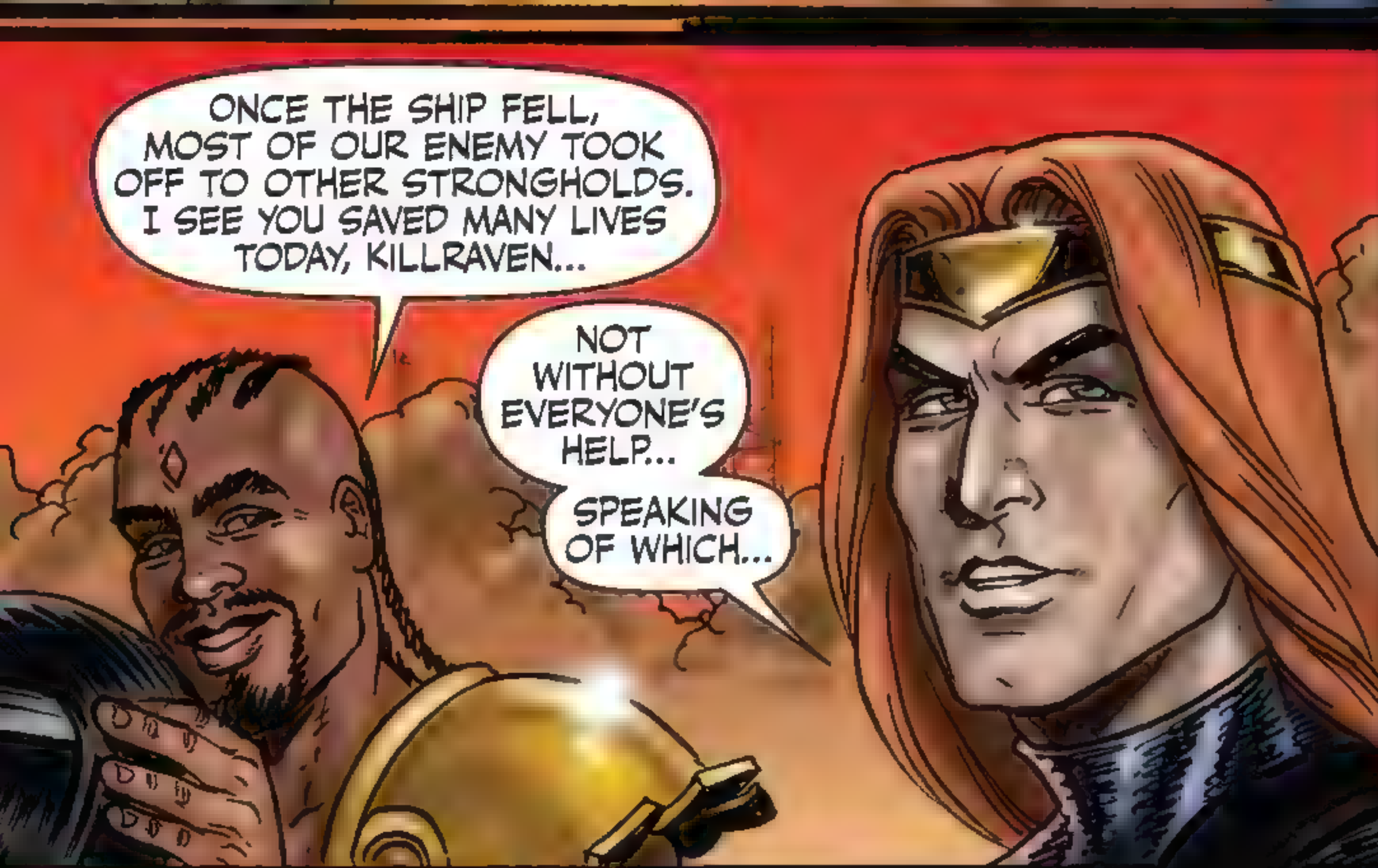
THIS
PLACE IS
RELENT-
LESS.

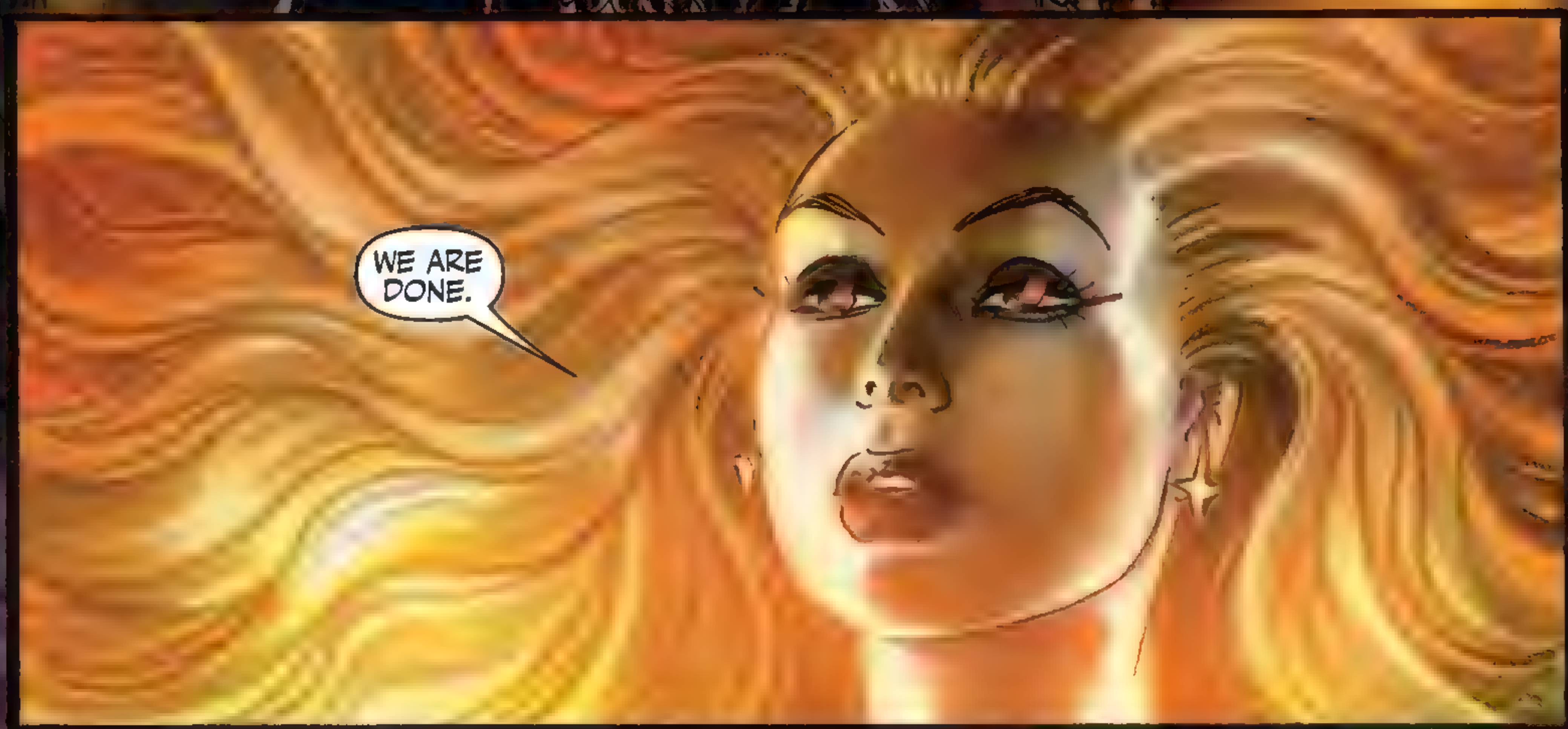
SCATTER!
IT'S ABOUT TO
FIRE AGAIN!



THOOM!

THOOM!







WHERE'S
ALL THE BIG TALK
NOW?

STAND STILL,
MISCREANT!

MISCREANT?
ANYONE
EVER CLUE YOU IN
TO HOW ANNOYING
YOUR VOICE IS?

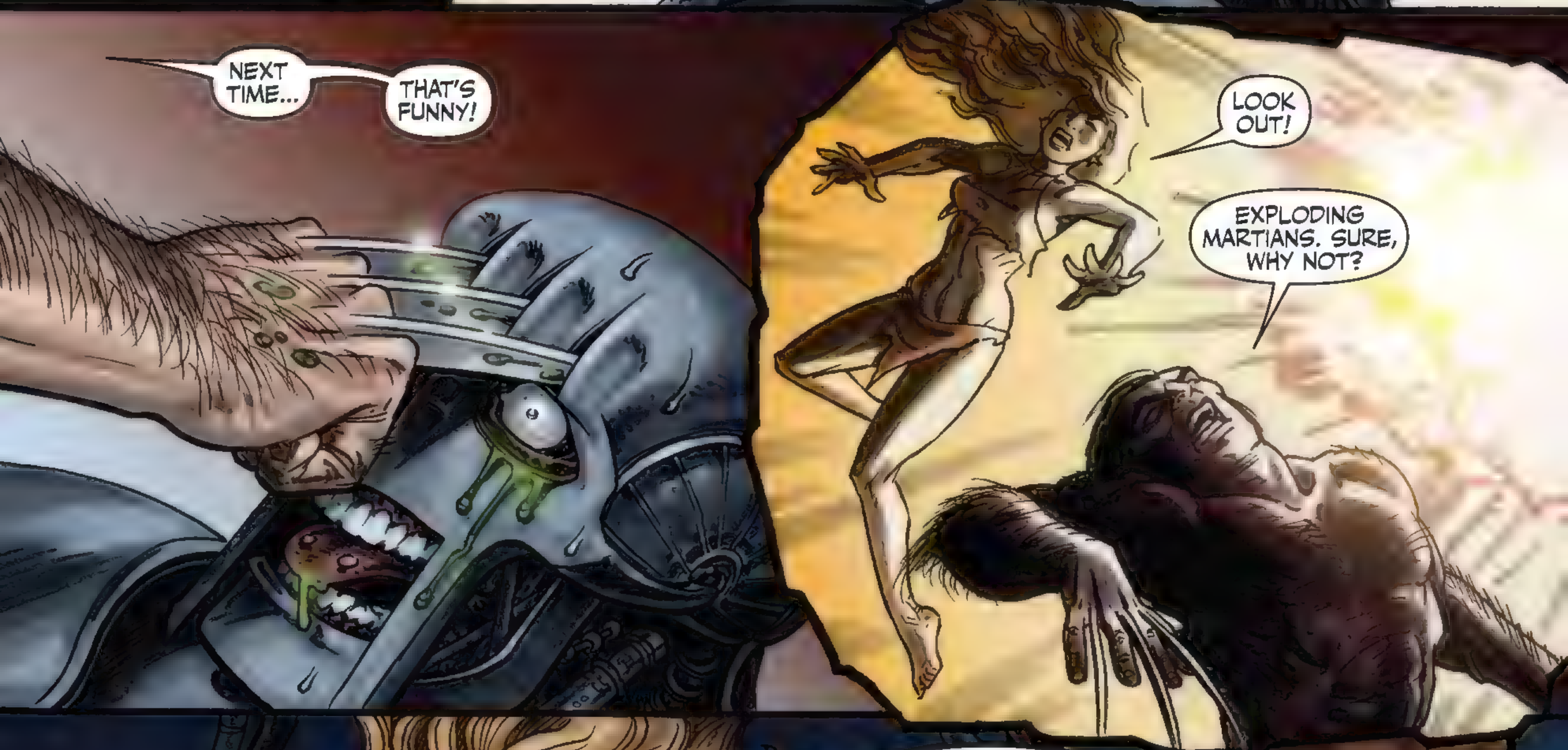
WHAT
ARE YOU?

IT'S
SO CLICHÉ
AT THIS POINT,
BUT I'M YOUR
WORST NIGHT-
MARE!

SON OF
A...



MAYBE
NEXT TIME
YOU'LL THINK
TWICE BEFORE
KIDNAPPING
HUMANS...

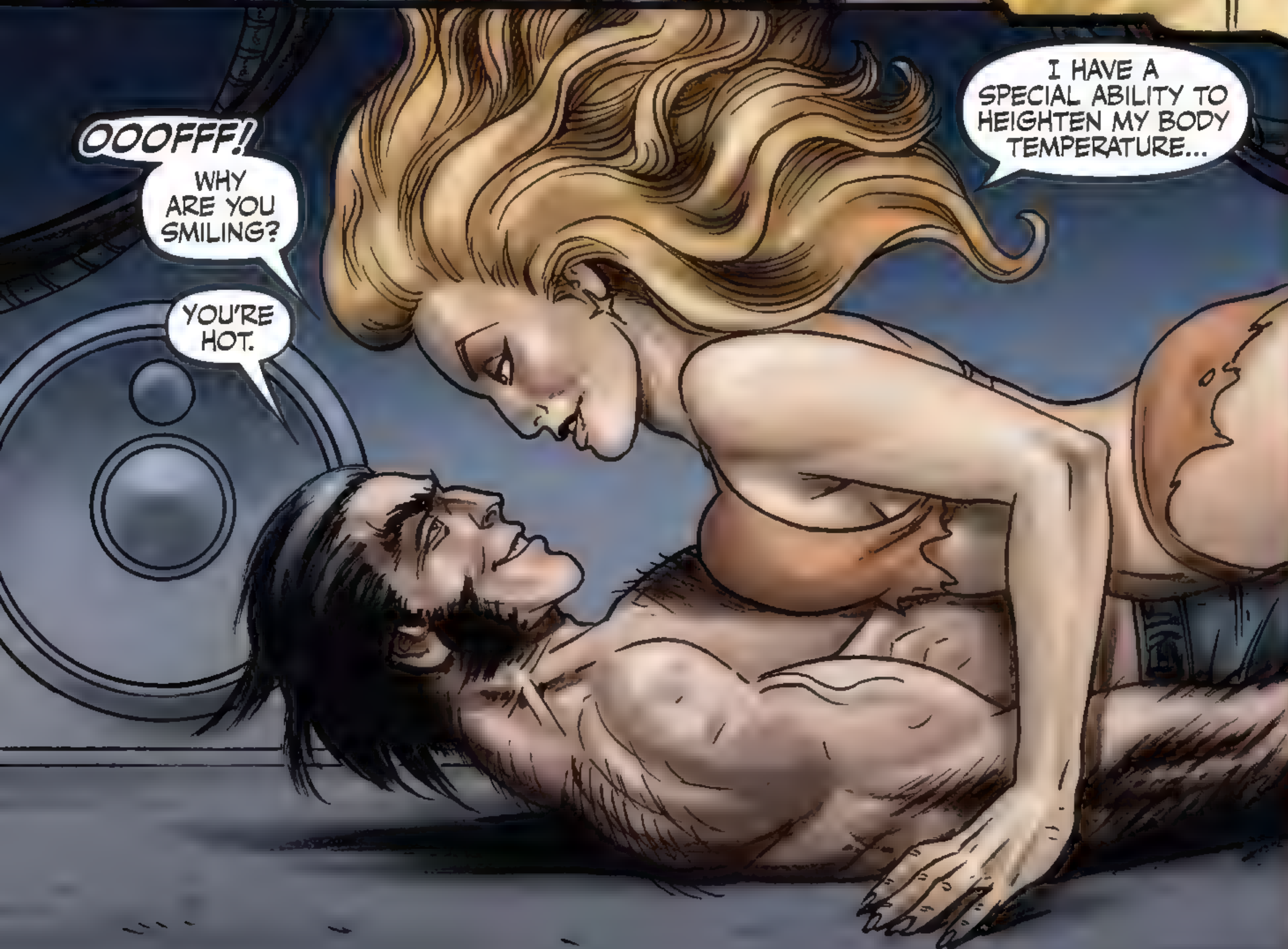


NEXT
TIME...

THAT'S
FUNNY!

LOOK
OUT!

EXPLODING
MARTIANS. SURE,
WHY NOT?

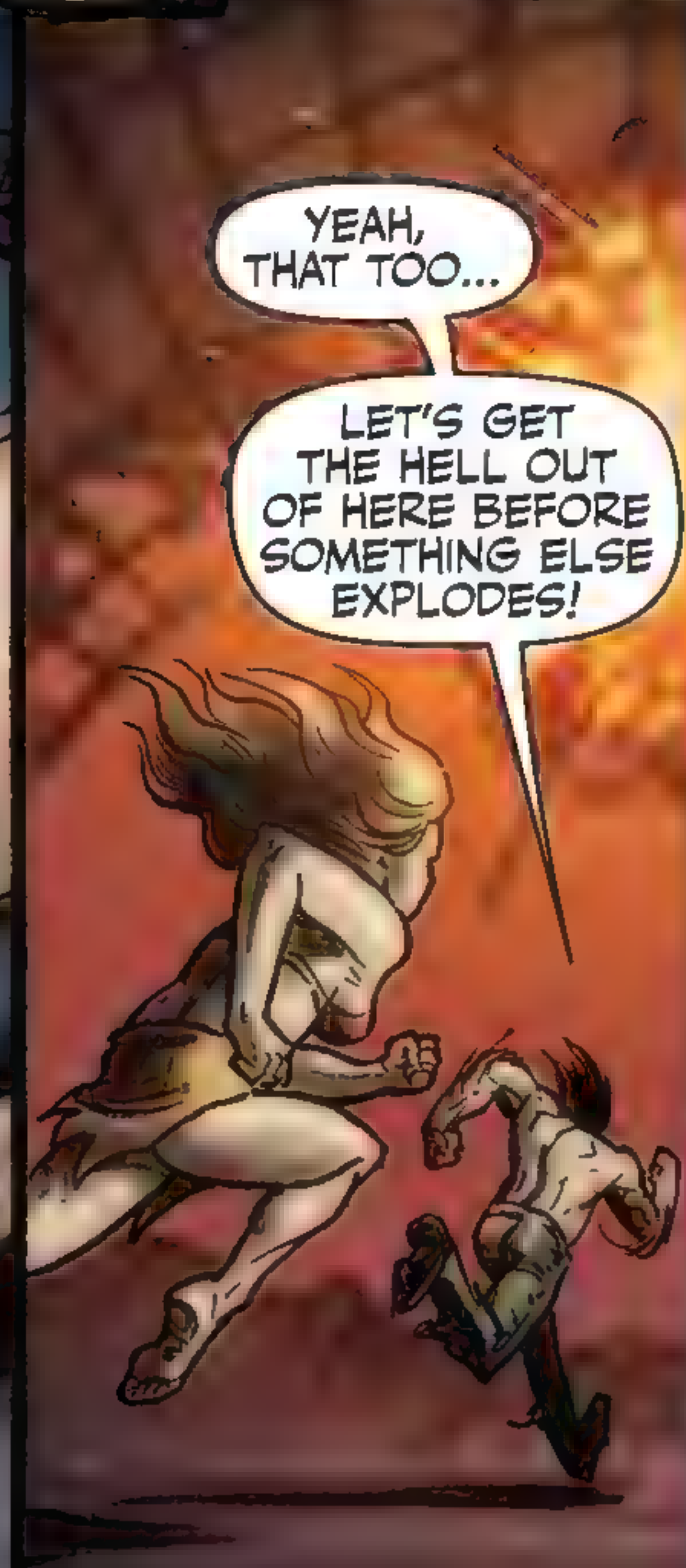


OOOFFF!

WHY
ARE YOU
SMILING?

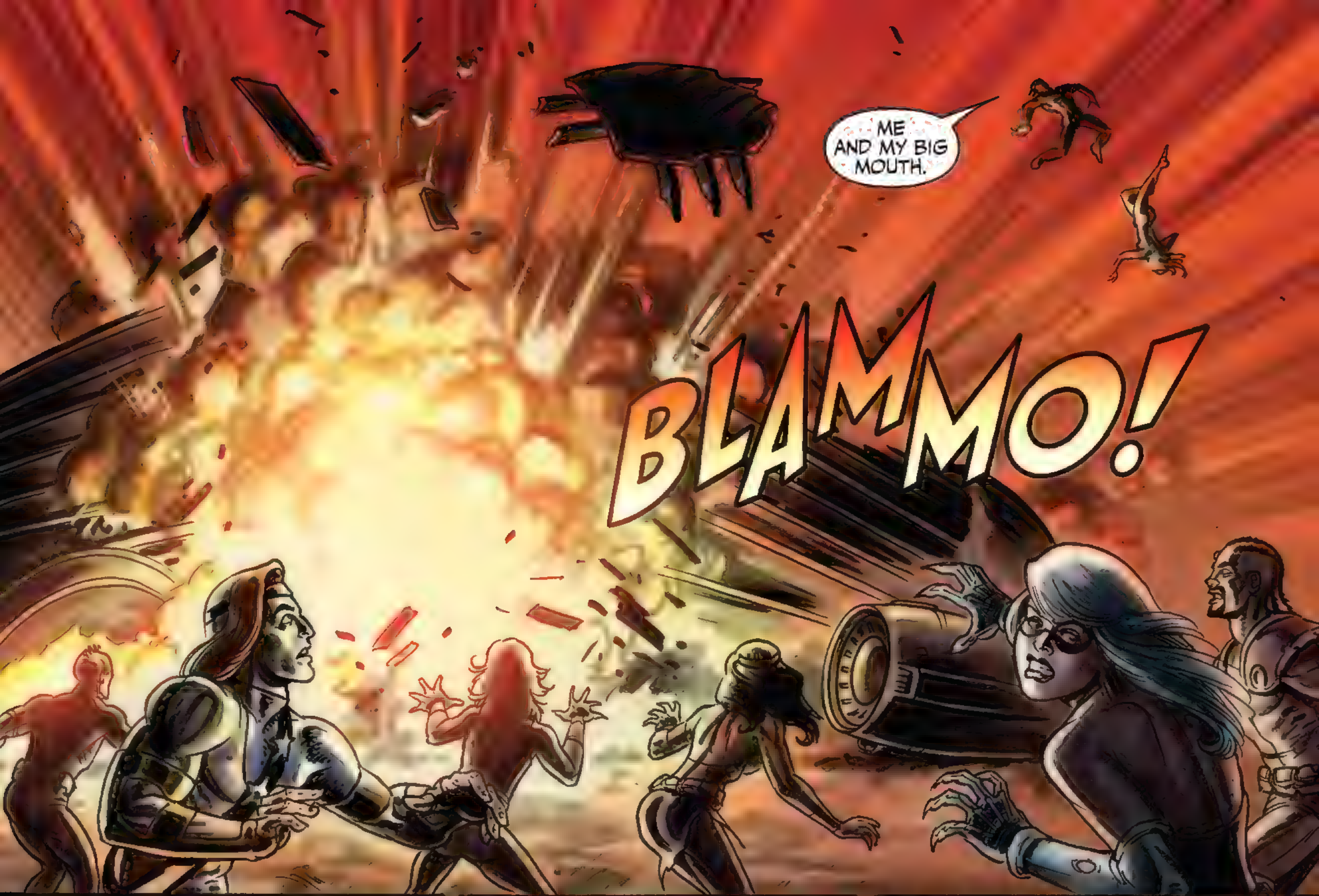
YOU'RE
HOT.

I HAVE A
SPECIAL ABILITY TO
HEIGHTEN MY BODY
TEMPERATURE...



YEAH,
THAT TOO...

LET'S GET
THE HELL OUT
OF HERE BEFORE
SOMETHING ELSE
EXPLODES!



A while later...

SO WHAT NOW?

WE GET THESE PEOPLE BACK TO THEIR LOVED ONES AND VILLAGES AND SET OUR SIGHTS ON ANOTHER OF THESE FACILITIES. UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE MANY OF THEM AND ONLY A FEW OF US...

OUR DESTROYING THIS FACILITY, WELL, IT SENDS A MESSAGE AND AT THE SAME TIME IT MAKES OUR MISSION HARDER...BUT WE JUST HAVE TO KEEP CHANGING UP OUR GAME PLAN.

I HAVE WATCHED THESE SAVAGES ANNIHILATE MANY WORLDS, INCLUDING MY OWN...THIS PLANET STILL HAS A CHANCE. IT'S WHY I AM HERE TO HELP.

SPEAKING OF WHICH... WE WERE TOLD YOU WOULD KNOW HOW TO ACTIVATE THIS AND GET US BACK HOME.

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT? IT'S A JO'MEH TRANSPORTATION DEVICE...

I THOUGHT I HAD THE LAST ONE.

SO YOU DO KNOW HOW TO USE IT THEN?

YES, IT'S ONE OF THE MANY DEVICES I AM USING TO BATTLE THE MARTIANS. I HAVE BEEN TRAVELING IN THEIR PATH COLLECTING TECHNOLOGY FROM EACH DYING RACE TO ARM THE NEXT TARGETED PLANET IN THEIR PATH.

SO AM I TO BELIEVE YOUR HOME IS THE TIME STAMP THAT'S STILL ON THIS DEVICE? I CAN SEND YOU TO THE EXACT TIME YOU LEFT.

THAT WOULD BE PERFECT...

BUT I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION...

CAN YOU MAKE IT SO WE GO BACK AN HOUR BEFORE THAT TIME TO THE PLACE IT WAS AS WELL?

OH, YOU BAD BOY.



IT'S
A SHAME TO
LOSE YOU TWO...
SO BEAUTIFUL
AND FULL OF
LIFE.

YOU'RE
NOT LOSING US,
WE JUST HAVE TO
GO BACK TO OUR
TIME AND POLICE OUR
OWN TROUBLE-
MAKERS.

LOGAN,
IS HE...
YOURS?

THAT
MAN...
HE IS NO
ONE'S.

HOW
ABOUT KILL-
RAVEN?



HE
BELONGS TO THE
PEOPLE...



RELATIONS
OF ANY KIND ARE
HARD AND FAST
HERE...



DEATH IS
AROUND EVERY
CORNER. YOU HAVE
TO APPRECIATE
EVERY MOMENT.



YOU HAVE
SAVED US ALL,
AND FOR THAT, I
AM ETERNALLY
GRATEFUL.

I DON'T
ENVY YOU, BUT YOU
HAVE A GOOD CREW
SURROUNDING
YOU...

THEY
ARE THE BEST AT
WHAT THEY DO...BUT
WE HAVE LOST
MANY.

WE ALL
HAVE.



I HAVE
THE COORDINATES
YOU REQUESTED...IF
YOU BOTH ARE
READY.

LET'S
DO IT.
GOODBYE,
EVERYONE...AND
STAY SAFE.

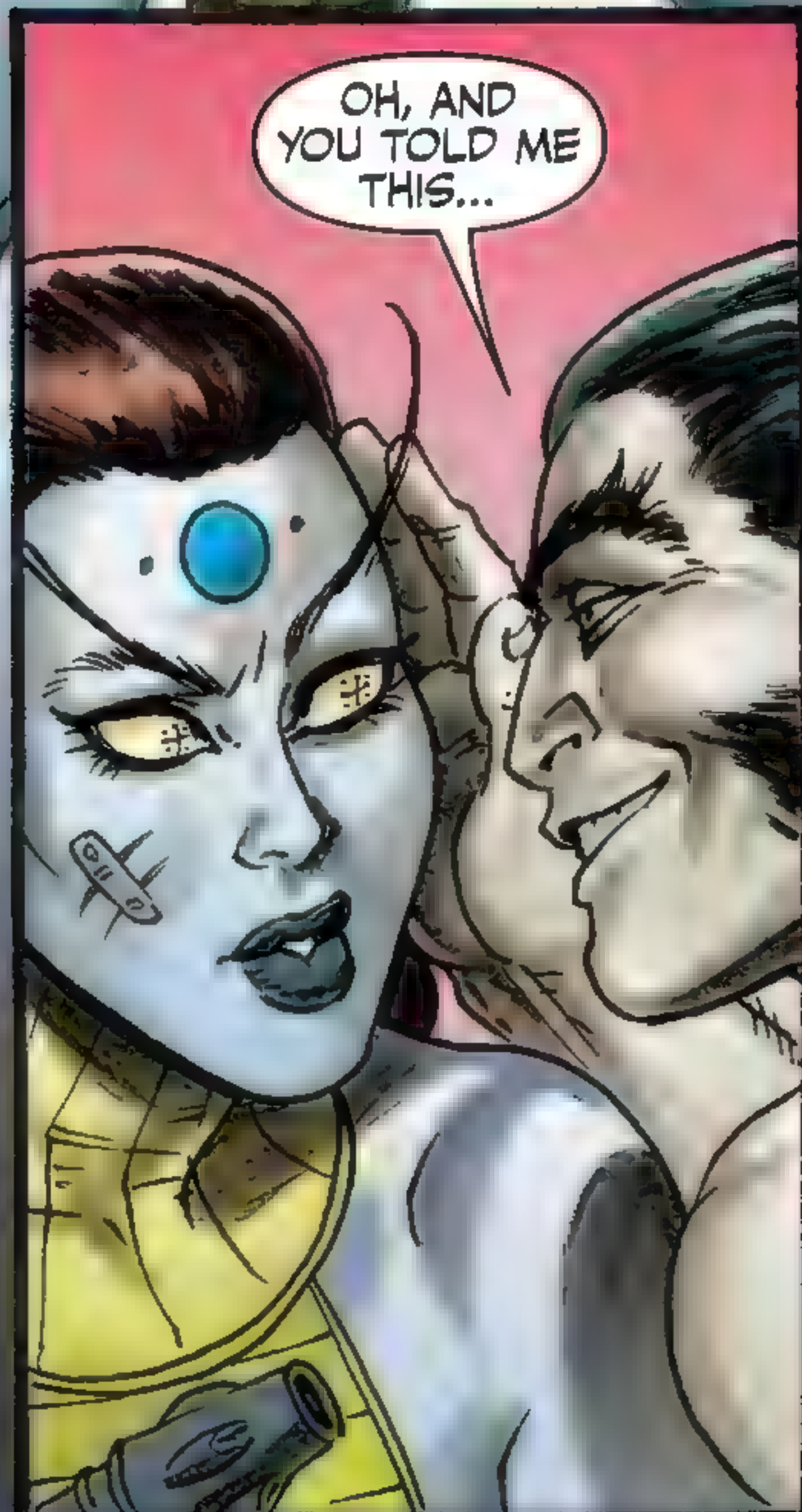


STAY
RIGHT WHERE
YOU ARE...

CIVA...
DON'T SHOOT...WE
MET YOU IN THE FUTURE
AND YOU SENT US BACK
USING THE JO'MEH
DEVICE.

HMMM, NOW
THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
IF YOU ARE HERE, YOU WERE
IN THE FUTURE AT SOME POINT
AND CAME BACK TO THIS TIME...
OR MAYBE YOU WERE NOT
THERE YET AND LANDED
IN THIS TIME...

YOUR
FATHER'S NAME IS
KILCHER AND YOU TRAINED
MITWEG WARRIORS ON LUMLY
NINE TILL YOU WERE SENT
OFF-PLANET. YOU TOLD ME
TO TELL YOU THIS IN
CASE WE MET
AGAIN.



OH, AND
YOU TOLD ME
THIS...



UH...YEAH,
OKAY. YOU HAVE
TO BE TELLING
THE TRUTH.



AS
YOU KNOW,
ALTERNATING
FUTURES
EXIST...

THE
TROUBLE WITH AN
APPARATUS LIKE THIS
IS THAT SO MUCH IS
UNPREDICTABLE.

SO
HOW CAN
I HELP
YOU?

Meanwhile.

I SWEAR, I'M GONNA GET THOSE SMARTASSES BLACK CAT AND WOLVERINE BACK FOR DUMPING US HERE...

ME, TOO. SHE TOOK MY FAVORITE COAT!

YOU SEE THIS?

HOW COULD I MISS IT? WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS?

I'D SAY A *SPACESHIP*. IT'S SPECTACULAR IN ITS DESIGN.

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH. WHERE'S THE FRIGGIN' DOOR?

HEY, THEY STOPPED FOLLOWING US. MAYBE THEY'RE AFRAID OF THE SHIP. WHAT LUCK!

HONEY... I THINK I KNOW WHY... LOOK!

HMMM, SOME SORT OF LENS WEAPON. NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE. LOOKS LIKE GLASS...AND IT'S GIVING OFF A BIT OF HEAT...

TAP TAP

ARCADE! IT'S A *DEATH RAY*. IT'S GOING TO KILL US LIKE IT DID EVERYTHING ELSE.

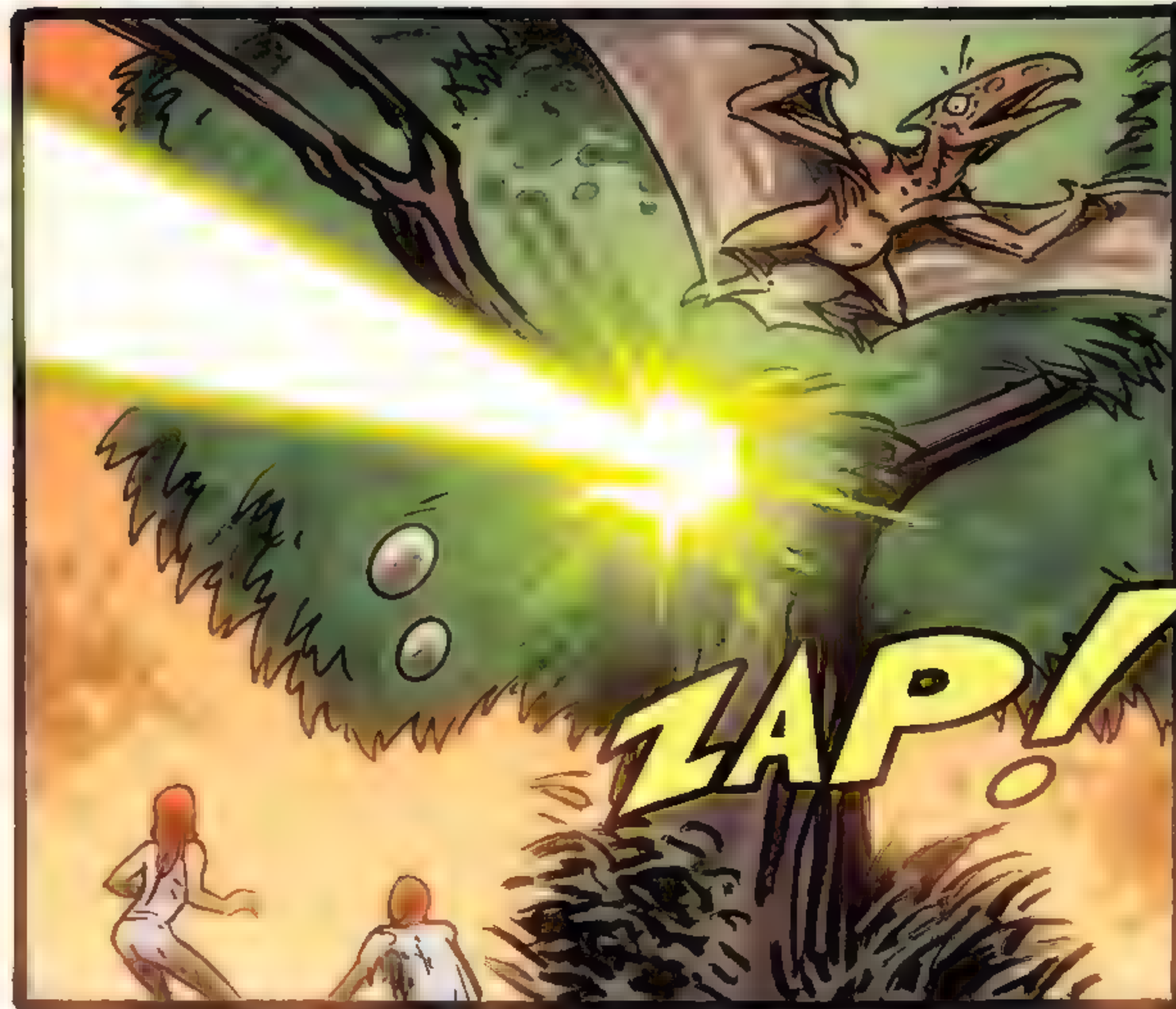
HELLO IN THERE. MY NAME IS ARCADE. I'M ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT MINDS ON THE PLANET.

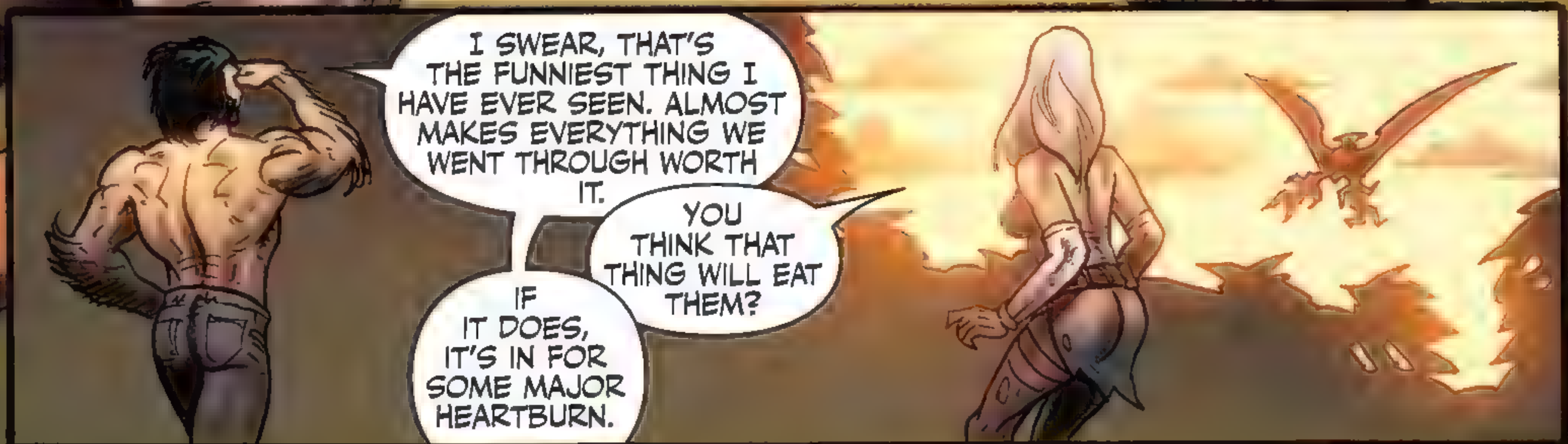
IF YOU CAN UNDERSTAND ME, I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO MEET AND TALK TO YOU.

YOU'RE INSANE!

LISTEN TO THE LADY... YA LITTLE WEASEL.

UGGGGG... I KNOW THAT VOICE...







I HAVE
A MISSION THAT
I HAVE TO GET
BACK TO.

IS THERE
ANYWHERE
YOU NEED TO
GO FROM
HERE?

LISTEN,
THERE'S SOME
INFORMATION THAT YOU
NEED TO KNOW BEFORE
YOU GO JUMPING
AROUND IN TIME
HERE...



YOU ALREADY
KNOW MY MISSION
IS NOT AN EASY ONE.
THIS CRASH DELAYED ME
A BIT, BUT I AM ALMOST
DONE WITH REPAIRS, AND
THEN I AM OFF TO
RECRUIT SOME HELP
IN THIS TIME
PERIOD...

ANY
SUGGESTIONS?



YEAH, I HAVE A
FEW... GOT SOME KIND
OF COMMUNICATOR?
A PHONE?

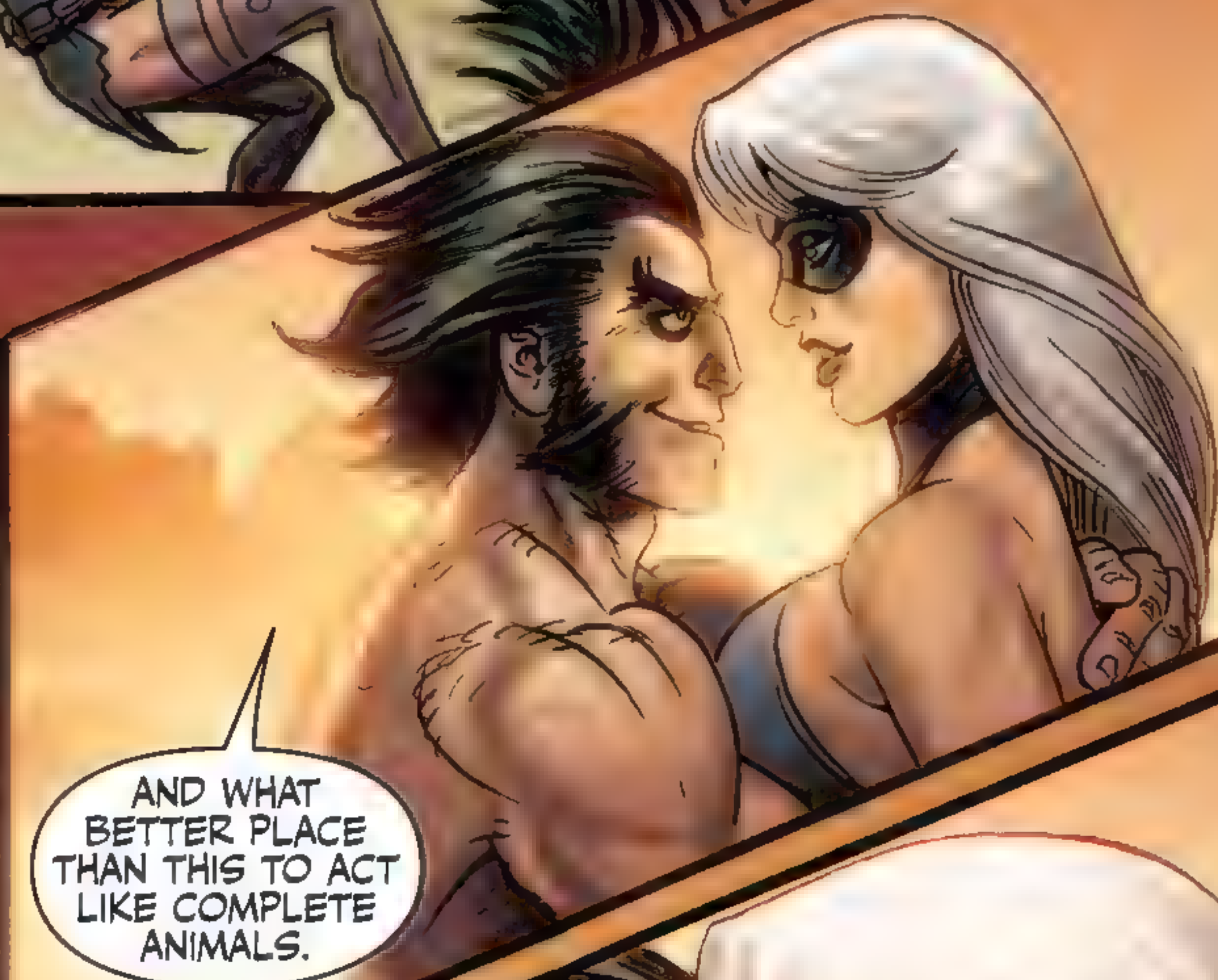
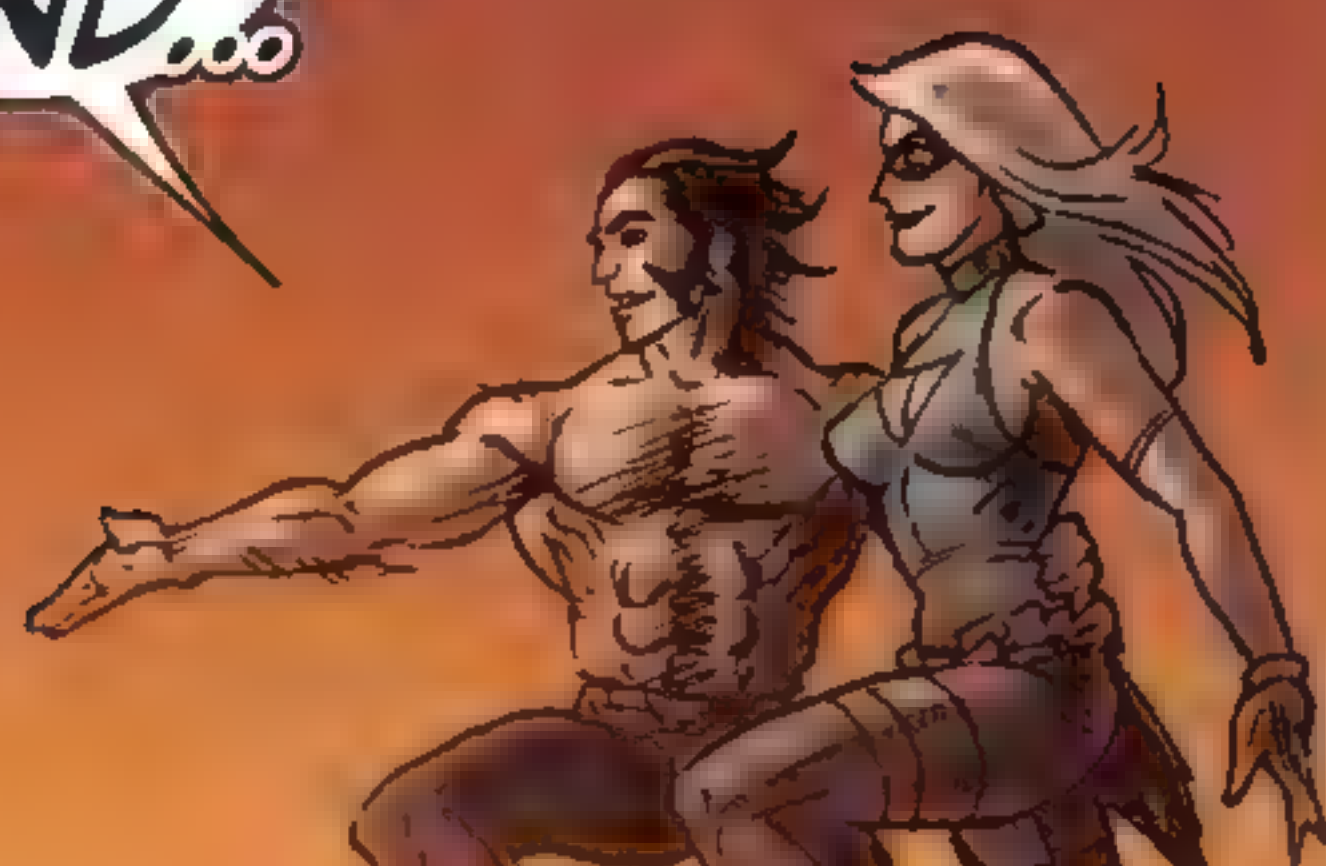
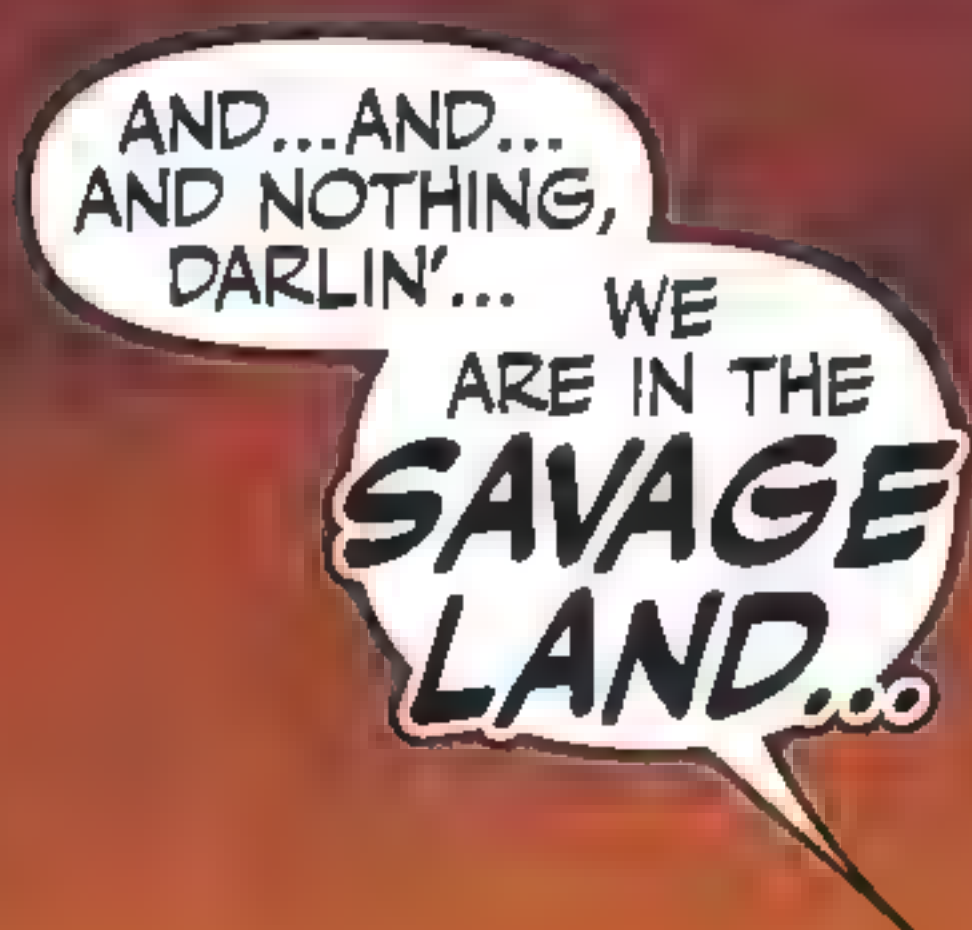
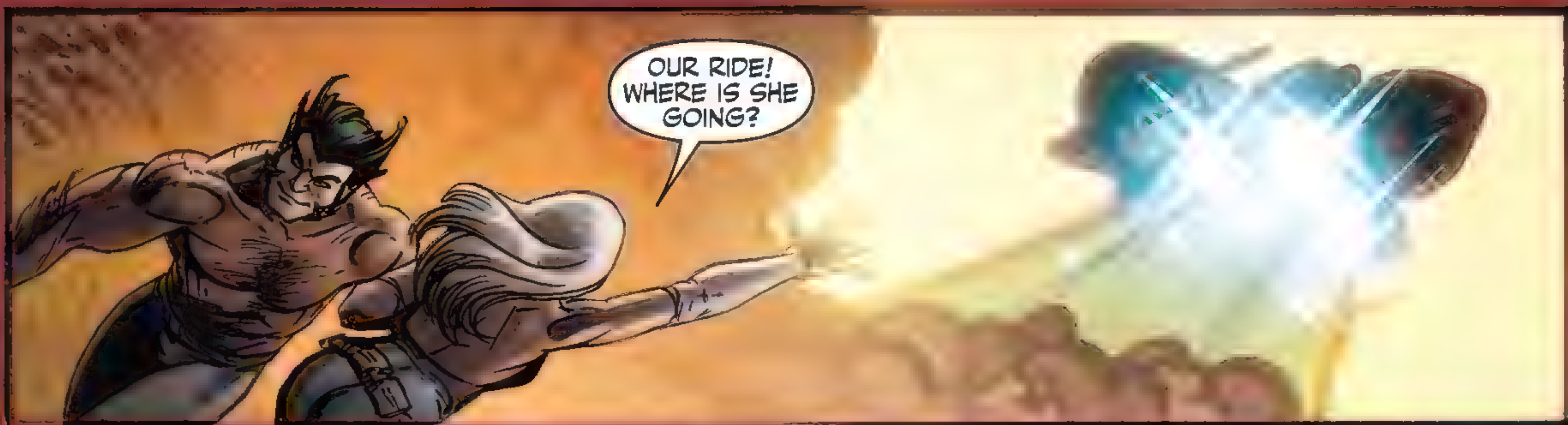
YES,
IN THE SHIP.
FOLLOW
ME.



CAT,
BE RIGHT
BACK.

TAKE YOUR
TIME.





FIN

MARVEL

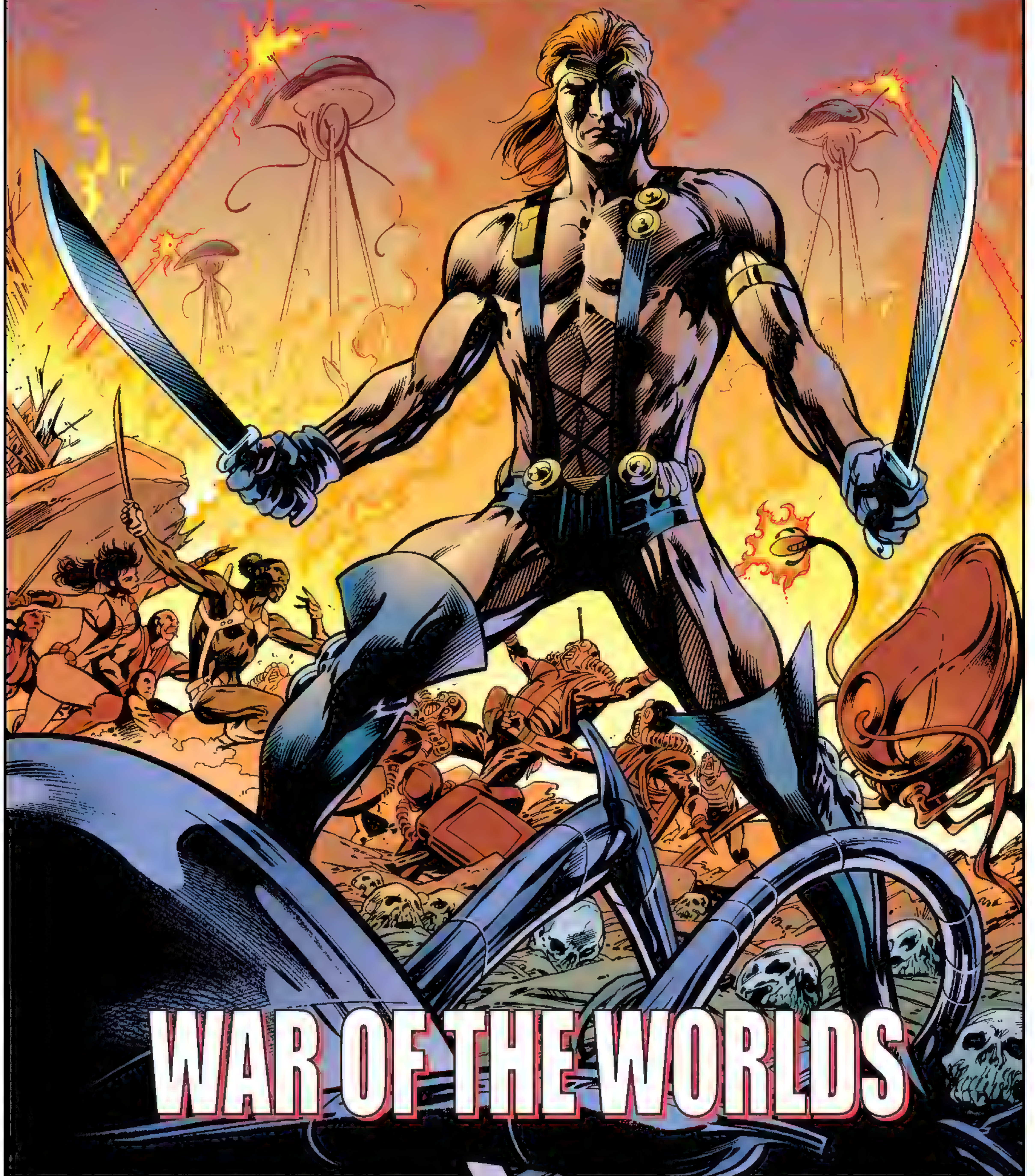
ALAN DAVIS

MARK FARMER

TM

1
of 6

KILLRAVEN



WAR OF THE WORLDS

1 JOHN

CANNED GOODS...
ALL YOU CAN CARRY
FOR FREE...

CHOOSE WELL...
NOTHING WITHOUT A
LABEL OR DENTED
OR RUSTY.

AND MOST
IMPORTANT--
MOVE FAST.



MOM SAID JUST
PRETEND WE'RE
LATE NIGHT
SHOPPING WITH
A GAME SHOW
TWIST.



BUT THAT'S
BECAUSE SHE
THOUGHT I'D BE
SCARED 'CAUSE
THIS IS MY FIRST
TIME OUTSIDE.



I SAID I WOULD. I
KNOW SHE NEEDS
TO PRETEND.

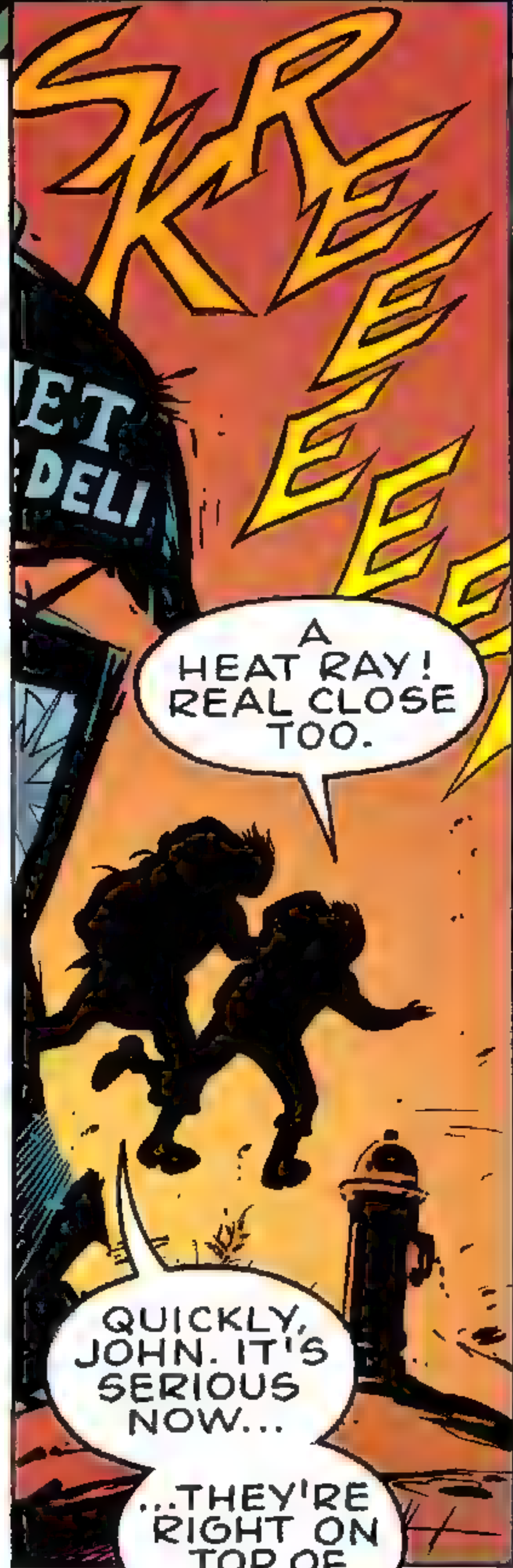
AND DIDN'T WANT
TO REMIND HER
THAT I'VE NEVER
BEEN SHOPPING
AND I'VE NEVER
SEEN A GAME
SHOW.

ALL THAT STUFF
FINISHED BEFORE
I WAS BORN.



JOHN!
JOHN! I
HEAR SOME-
THING...

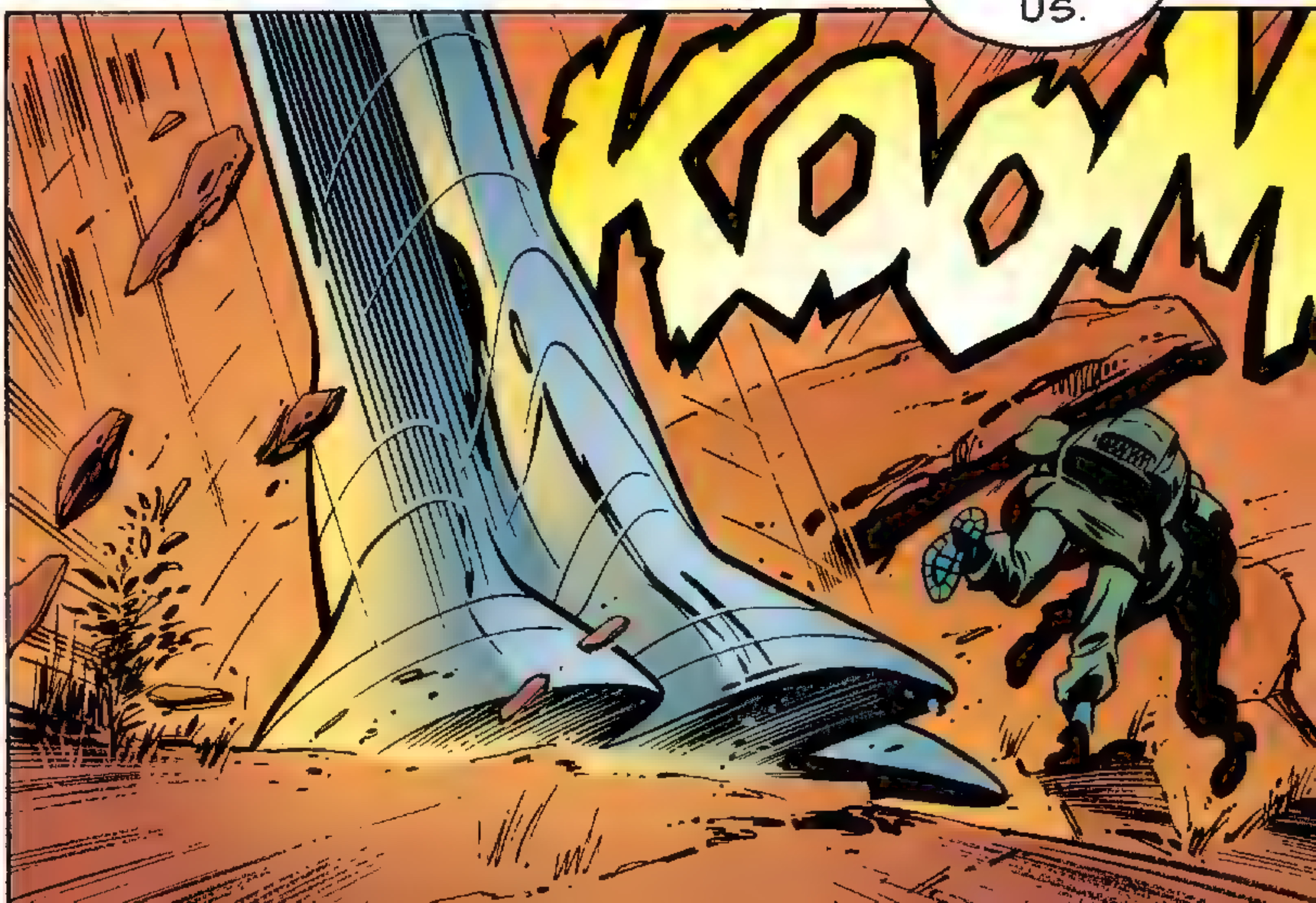
A
HEAT RAY!
REAL CLOSE
TOO.



QUICKLY,
JOHN. IT'S
SERIOUS
NOW...

...THEY'RE
RIGHT ON
TOP OF
US.

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MARTIAN TRIPOD
WAR MACHINES.
THREE IN SEARCH
FORMATION.

I'VE SEEN THEM
LOTS OF TIMES ON
VIDEO RECORDS, BUT
THIS IS DIFFERENT.

THE HEAT!

THE SMELL!

AND THE SOUND...
SO LOUD IT MAKES
MY INSIDES FEEL
LIKE JELLY.

NOW I KNOW WHY
MOM PRETENDS.



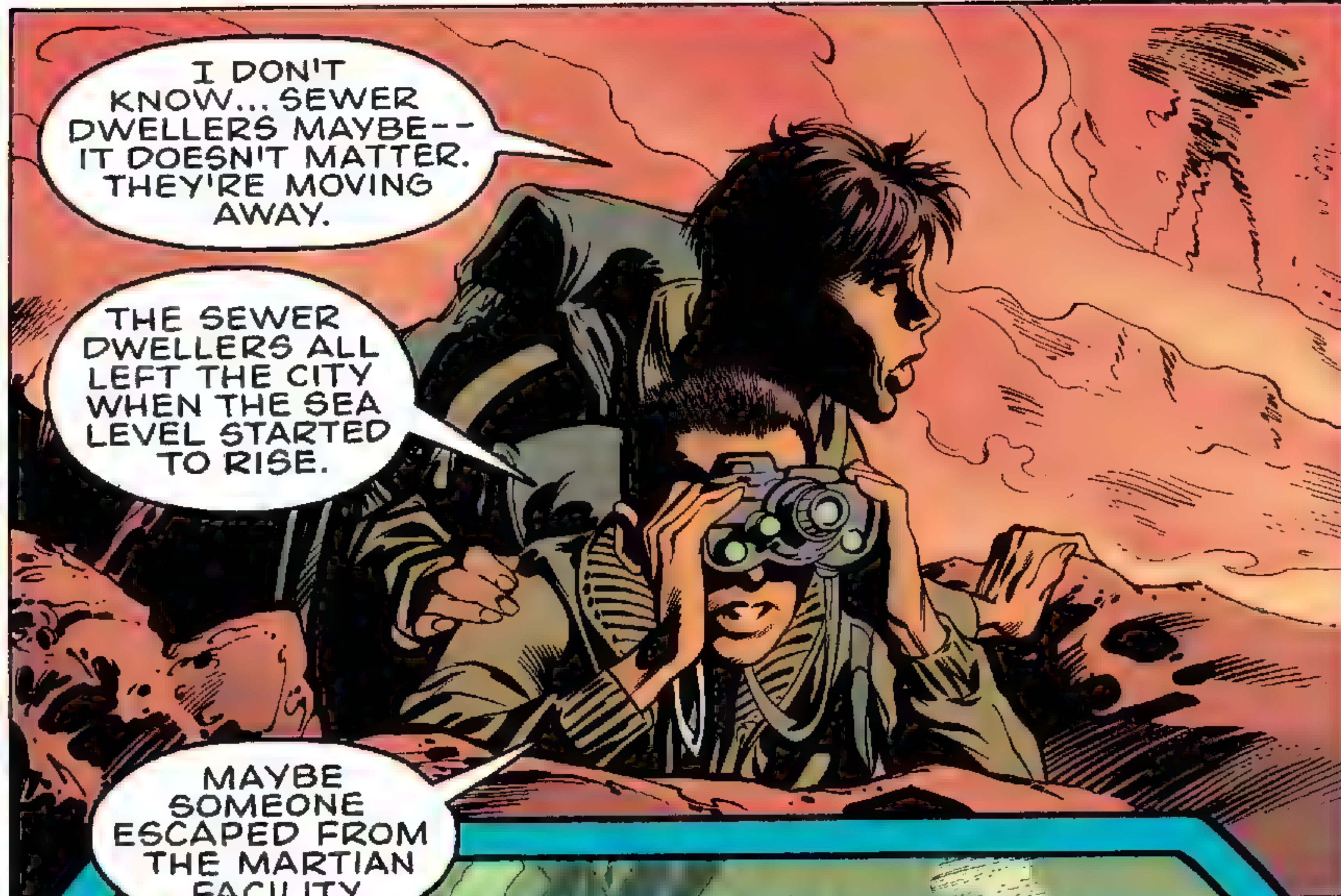
FORGIVE ME, JOHN. I SHOULD NEVER HAVE BROUGHT YOU OUTSIDE.

ARE THEY LOOKING FOR US?

NO! NO... OF COURSE NOT.

THEY HAVEN'T DISCOVERED OUR BUNKER IN OVER FIFTEEN YEARS. THERE'S NO REASON FOR THEM TO SUSPECT WE EVEN EXIST.

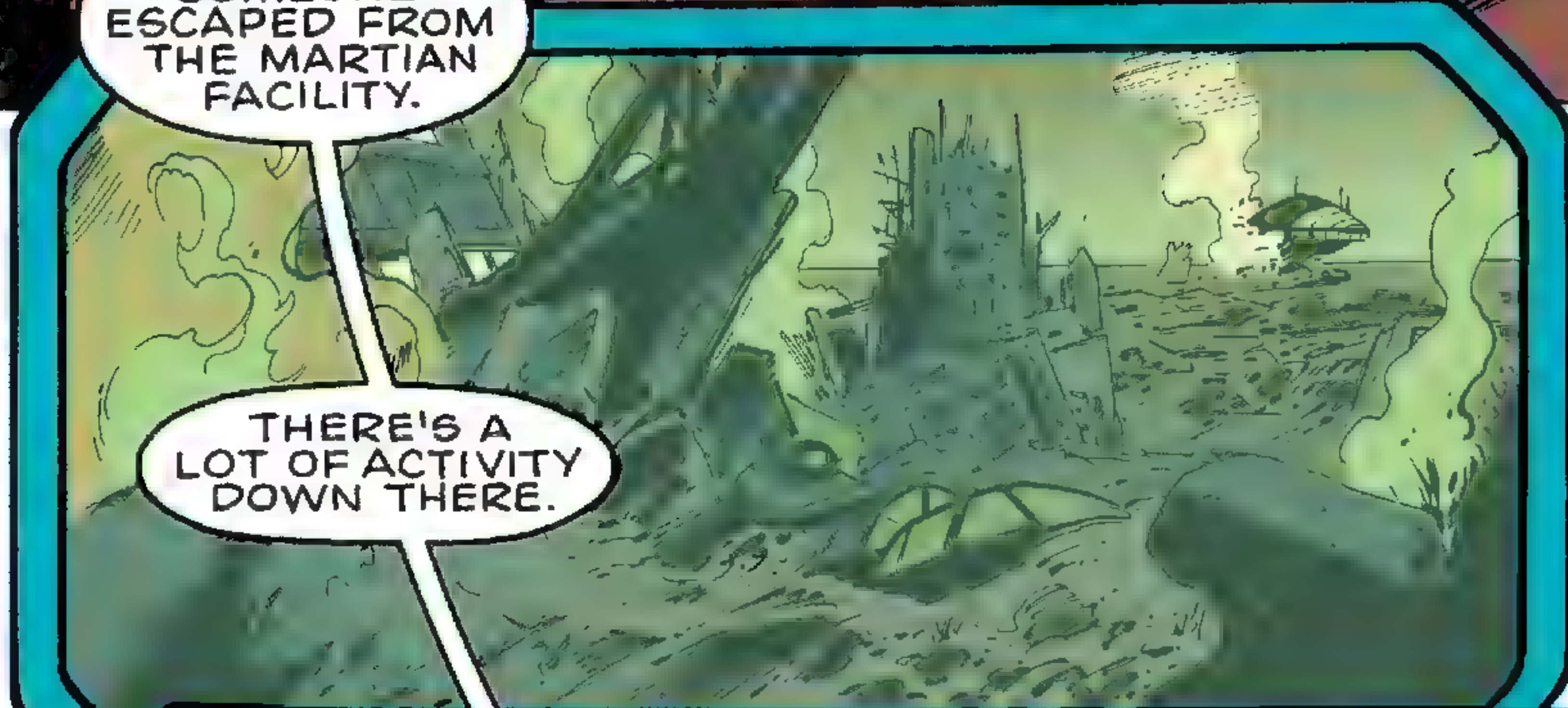
THEN WHO ARE THEY LOOKING FOR?



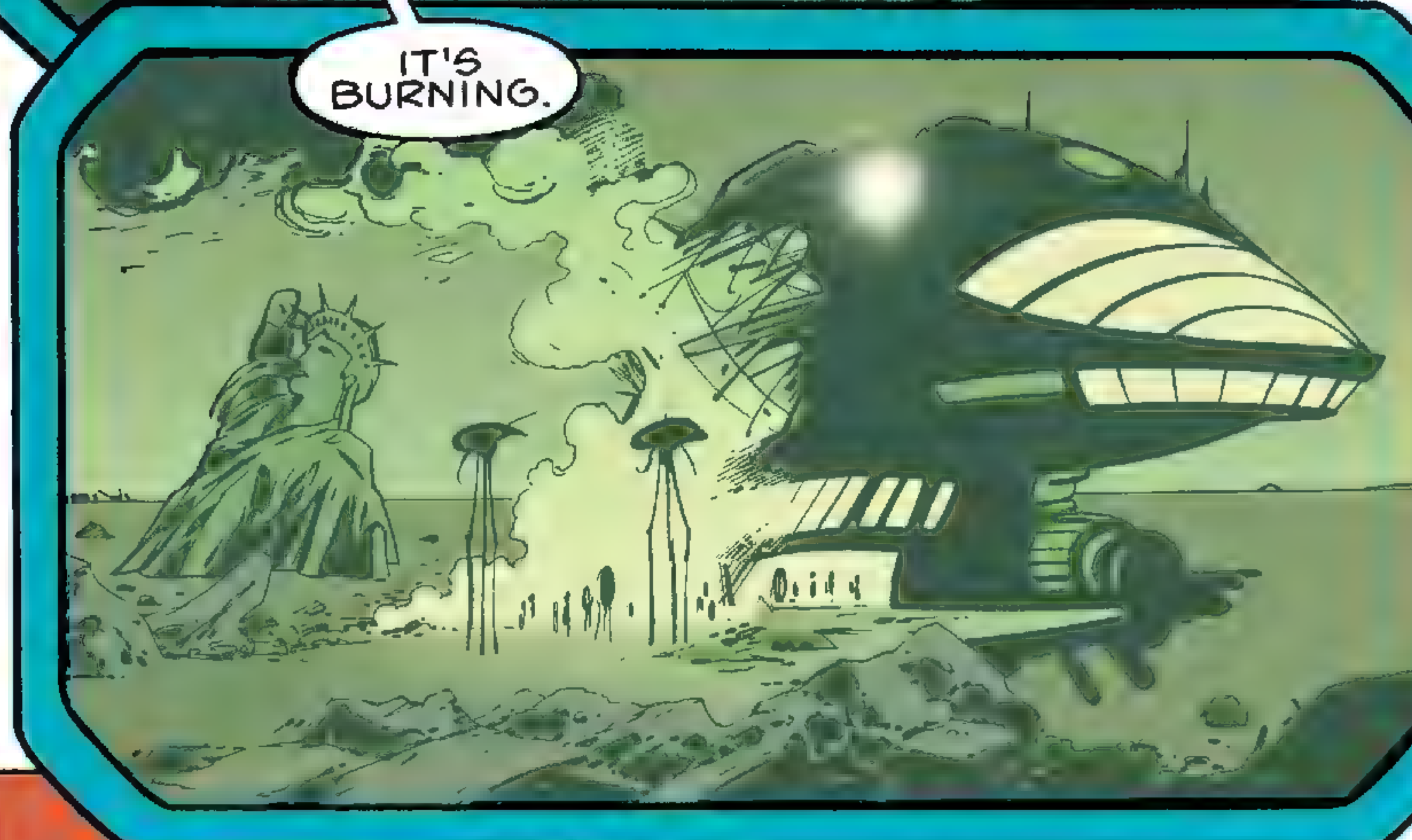
I DON'T KNOW... SEWER DWELLERS MAYBE-- IT DOESN'T MATTER. THEY'RE MOVING AWAY.

THE SEWER DWELLERS ALL LEFT THE CITY WHEN THE SEA LEVEL STARTED TO RISE.

MAYBE SOMEONE ESCAPED FROM THE MARTIAN FACILITY.



THERE'S A LOT OF ACTIVITY DOWN THERE.



IT'S BURNING.



THIS IS BAD. I SHOULD NEVER HAVE BROUGHT YOU TO THE SURFACE.

IT'S OKAY, MOM, TAKE IT EASY.

NO, IF THE MARTIANS ARE OUT IN FORCE, THE TRIPODS WILL ONLY BE THE FIRST WAVE TO FLUSH OUT-- OH NO!



JOHN, DROP THE BAGS... AND RUN FOR YOUR LIFE.

WHAT'S WRONG...?

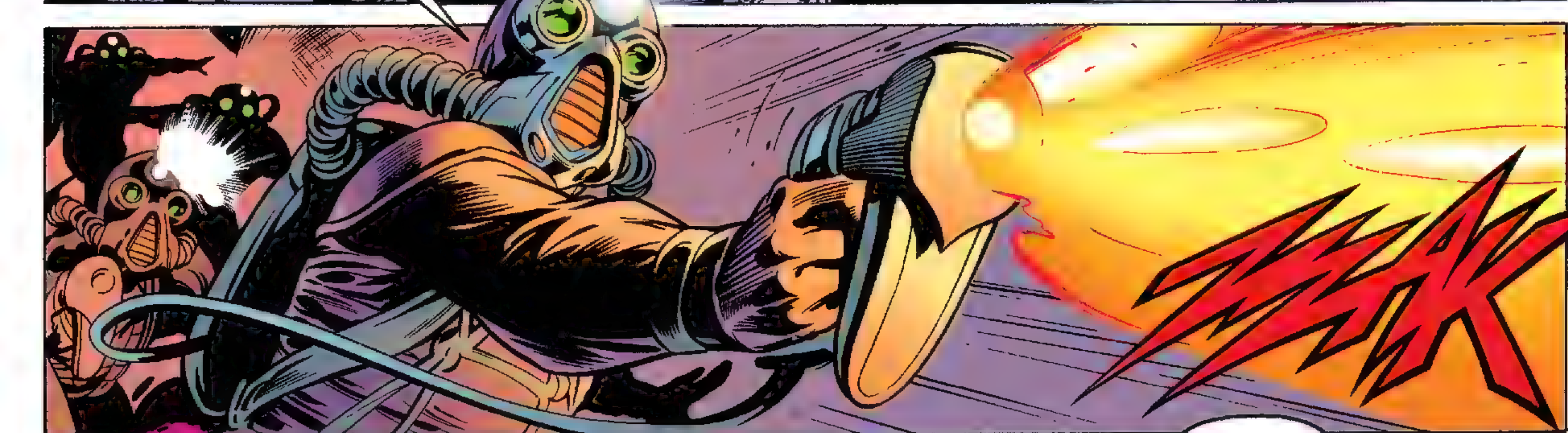


"KEEPER'S
MEN, JOHN.
MARTIAN
HUNTER-
SLAVES."

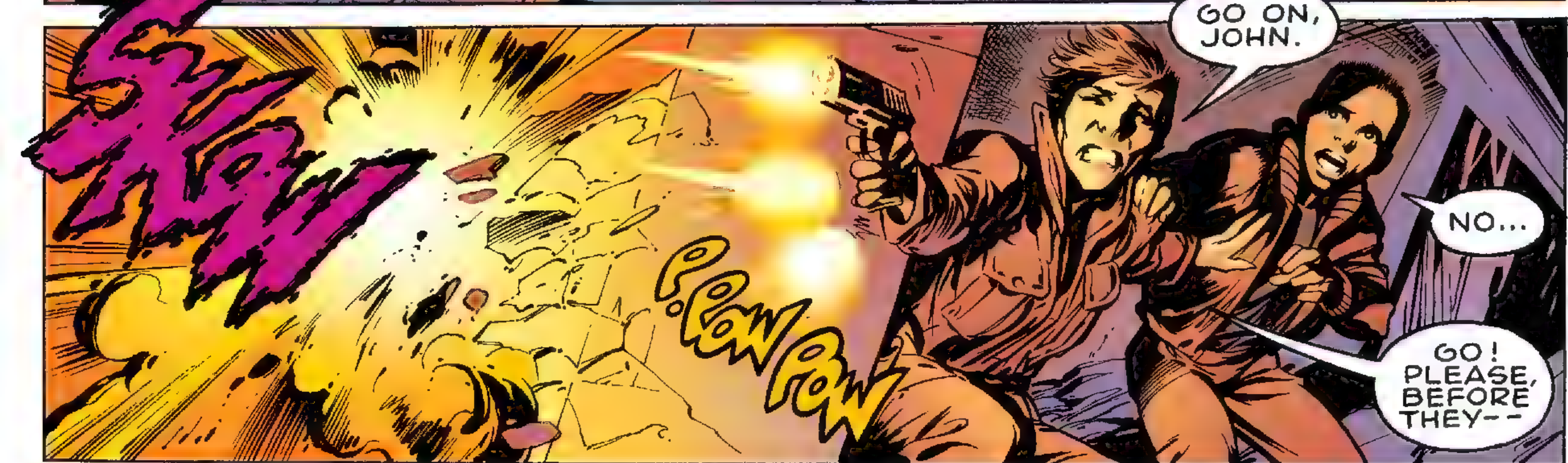
THERE!
TWO OF
THEM.



STOP!
OR DIE!



FASTER,
JOHN.



GO ON,
JOHN.

NO...

GO!
PLEASE,
BEFORE
THEY--



RUN,
JOHN.
RUN!

NO, MOM,
I WON'T
LEAVE.



THEY
AREN'T THE
RENEGADES.

JUST
A COUPLE OF
WASTELANDERS...
SCAVENGING IN
OUR CITY.

WE
WERE ONLY
LOOKING FOR
FOOD. PLEASE,
LET US GO.



TAKE THE
BOY. HE WILL
EARN US A GOOD
BONUS FROM OUR
KEEPER.

LEMME-
GO!

THE
WOMAN
IS TOO OLD
TO BE OF
VALUE.

MOM!

GAK!

NO,
PLEASE
DON'T HURT
MY SON.

CHUP

IT'S
THEM...



...THE
GLADIATOR
SLAVES!

SLAVES
NO MORE,
YOU CRAVEN
BUTCHERS.

WE ARE
FREEMEN!

HOLD
ON THERE,
RAVEN, YOU'RE
OUTNUMBERED BY
COLD-HEARTED
KILLERS WITH
BIG GUNS.

YOUR POINT,
M'SHULLA?



A JOKE.
YIKNOW.



YOU
USUALLY
INSIST ON
GIVING HUMAN
OPPONENTS AN
OPPORTUNITY
TO RETREAT.

BECAUSE
I AM TIRED OF
KILLING.



YEAH. WELL, YOU'RE GOOD AT IT. THE BEST!

THE KEEPER'S MEN ARE USED TO SOFT TARGETS. THEY ARE NO CHALLENGE TO ANY SPARTAN GLADIATOR.

IS THAT YOUR OPINION FROM THE SAFETY OF THE SIDE-LINES?

MOMMM!

I CHOOSE WHEN I FIGHT, CARMILLA.

WE ALL AGREED TO FOLLOW RAVEN WHEN HE FREED US, HAWK.

SKULL, WHY IS HE MAKING THAT AWFUL NOISE?

MOMMM.

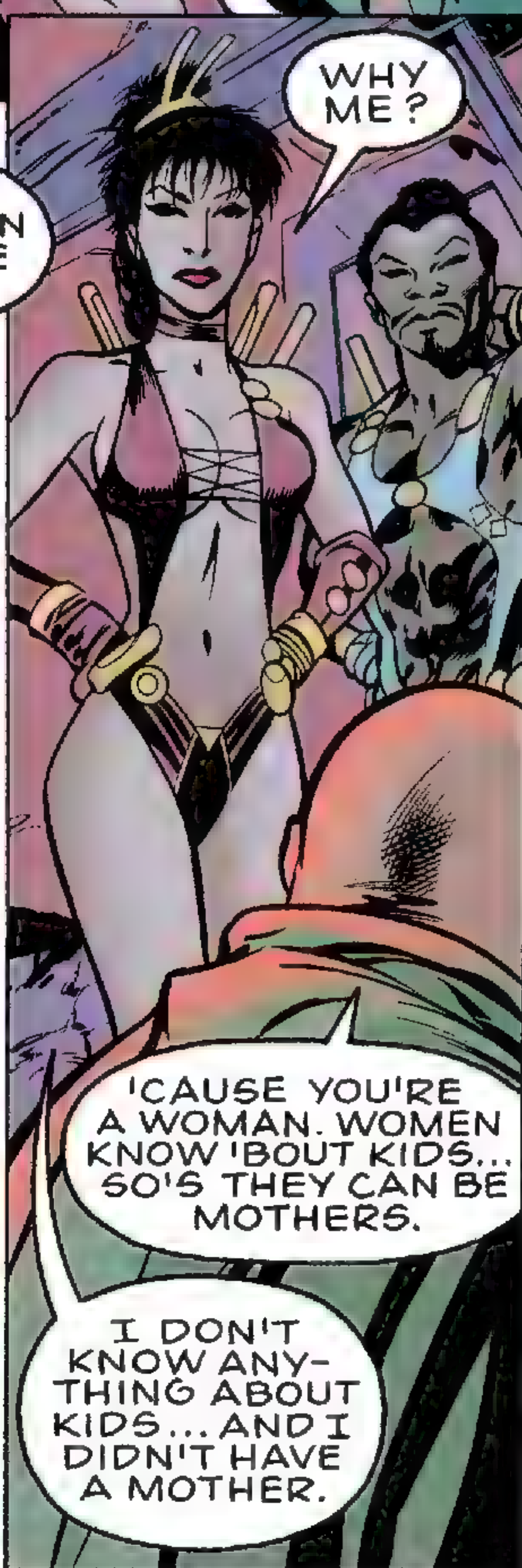
TO FREE-DOM, YES. NOT TO FIGHT NEEDLESS BATTLES AND KEEP IRRITATING THE MARTIANS.

REALLY? THAT'S WHAT I ENJOY THE MOST.



'CAUSE HIS MA IS DEAD.

CARMILLA, M'BE YOU CAN CONSOLE THE BOY?



WHY ME?

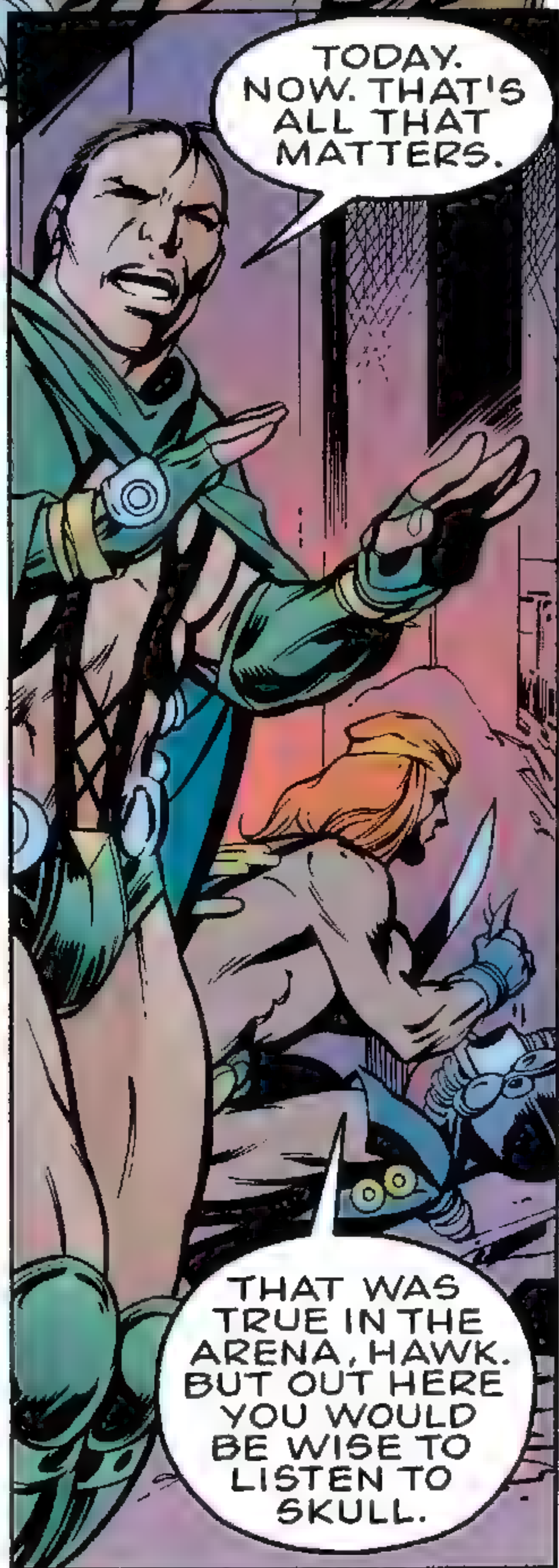
'CAUSE YOU'RE A WOMAN. WOMEN KNOW 'BOUT KIDS... SO'S THEY CAN BE MOTHERS.

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT KIDS... AND I DIDN'T HAVE A MOTHER.



WHEN I WAS A BOY, EVERYONE HAD A MOTHER.

THE OLD TIMES ARE GONE, YOU SOFT-HEADED FOOL.



TODAY. NOW. THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.

THAT WAS TRUE IN THE ARENA, HAWK. BUT OUT HERE YOU WOULD BE WISE TO LISTEN TO SKULL.

YEAH, WELL I THINK RISKING OUR FREEDOM TO SAVE A SNIVELLING WHELP IS CRAZY.

WHY WAS SAVING HIM SO IMPORTANT TO YOU, RAVEN?

YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND...

MOMMY, MY LEGS ARE SORE. I CAN'T RUN ANYMORE.

YOU'VE GOT TO TRY, BABY, PLEASE.

YOU'VE GOT TO T--

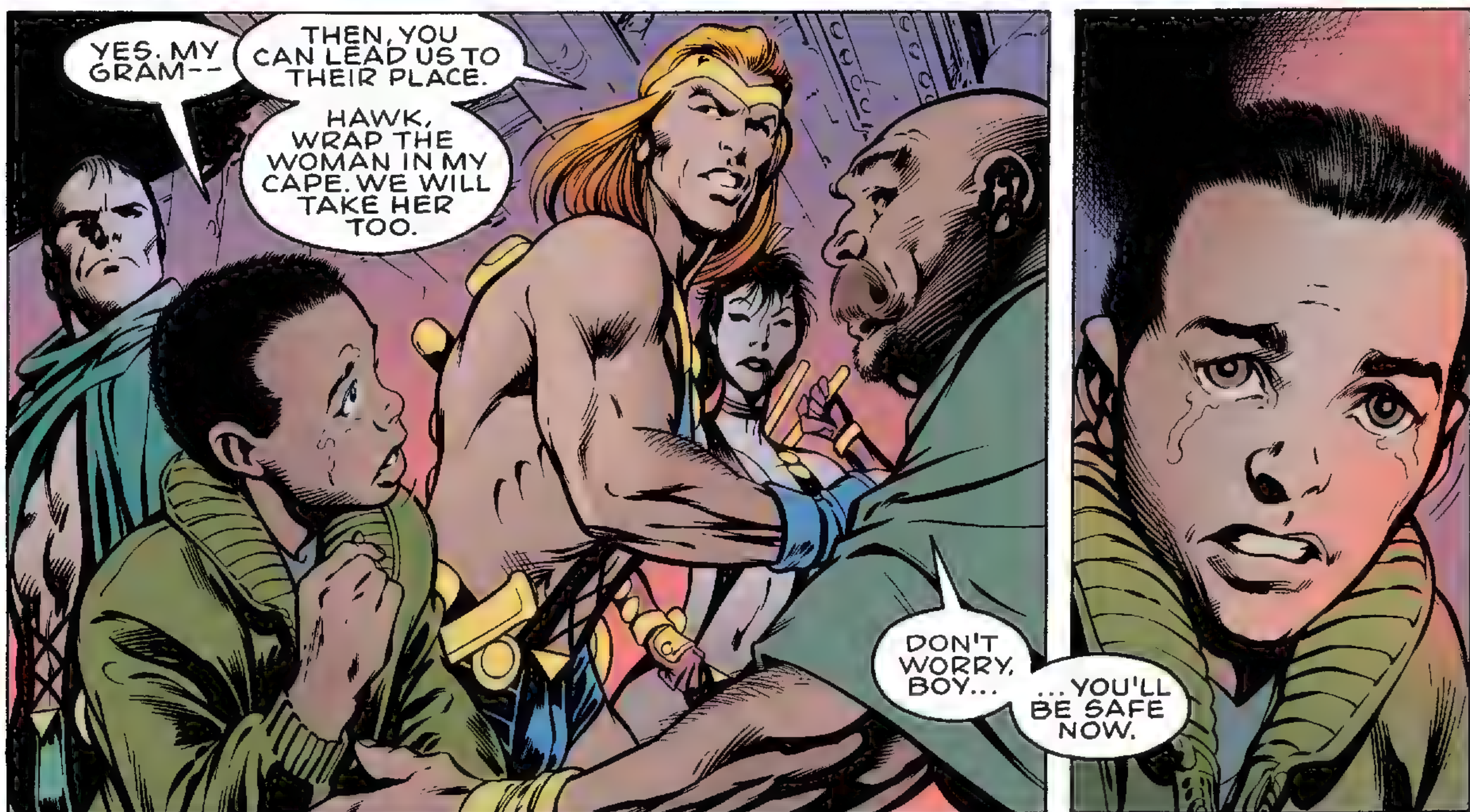
BRAA

AKK

HE SHOULD DO WELL IN THE SLAVE PITS.

WHY WOULDN'T I UNDERSTAND, RAVEN?

HE LOOKS FIT AND STRONG.



2 GRAMPS

THERE USED TO BE SEVEN HUNDRED PEOPLE IN THE BUNKER BUT IT WASN'T PROPERLY FINISHED WHEN THE MARTIANS CAME.

WHEN THE SUPPLIES STARTED TO RUN OUT, SOME LEFT... OTHERS STARTED TO FORAGE. THE SEWER DWELLERS KILLED SOME. RADIATION SICKNESS AND DISEASE KILLED MORE.

NOW THAT MOM'S DEAD THERE'S ONLY ME AND GRAMPS.

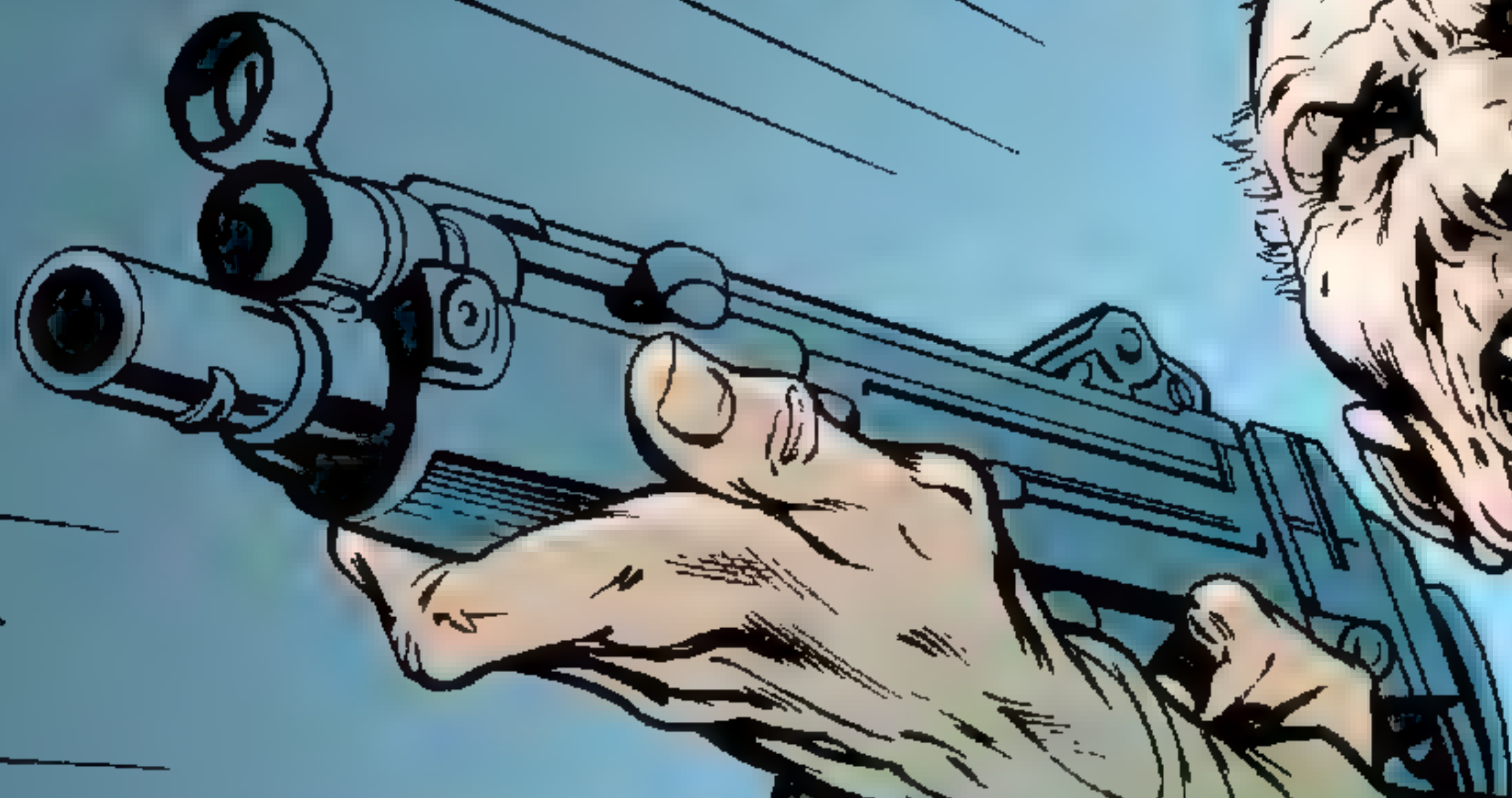
DO YOU ALWAYS TALK THIS MUCH?

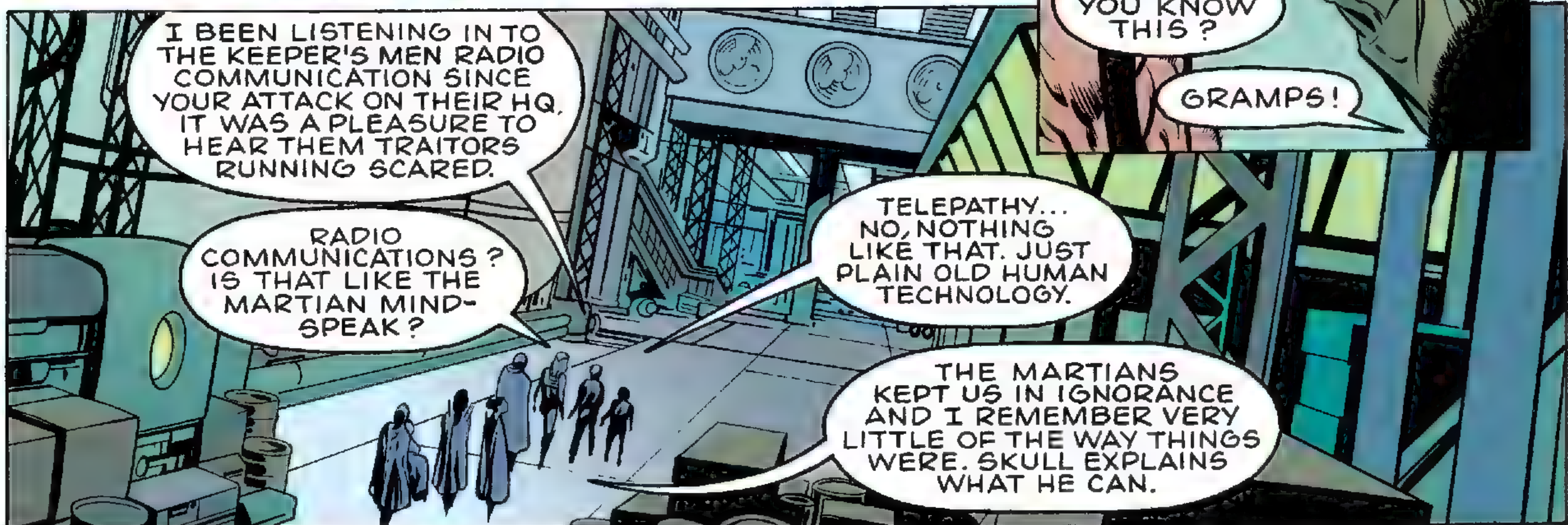
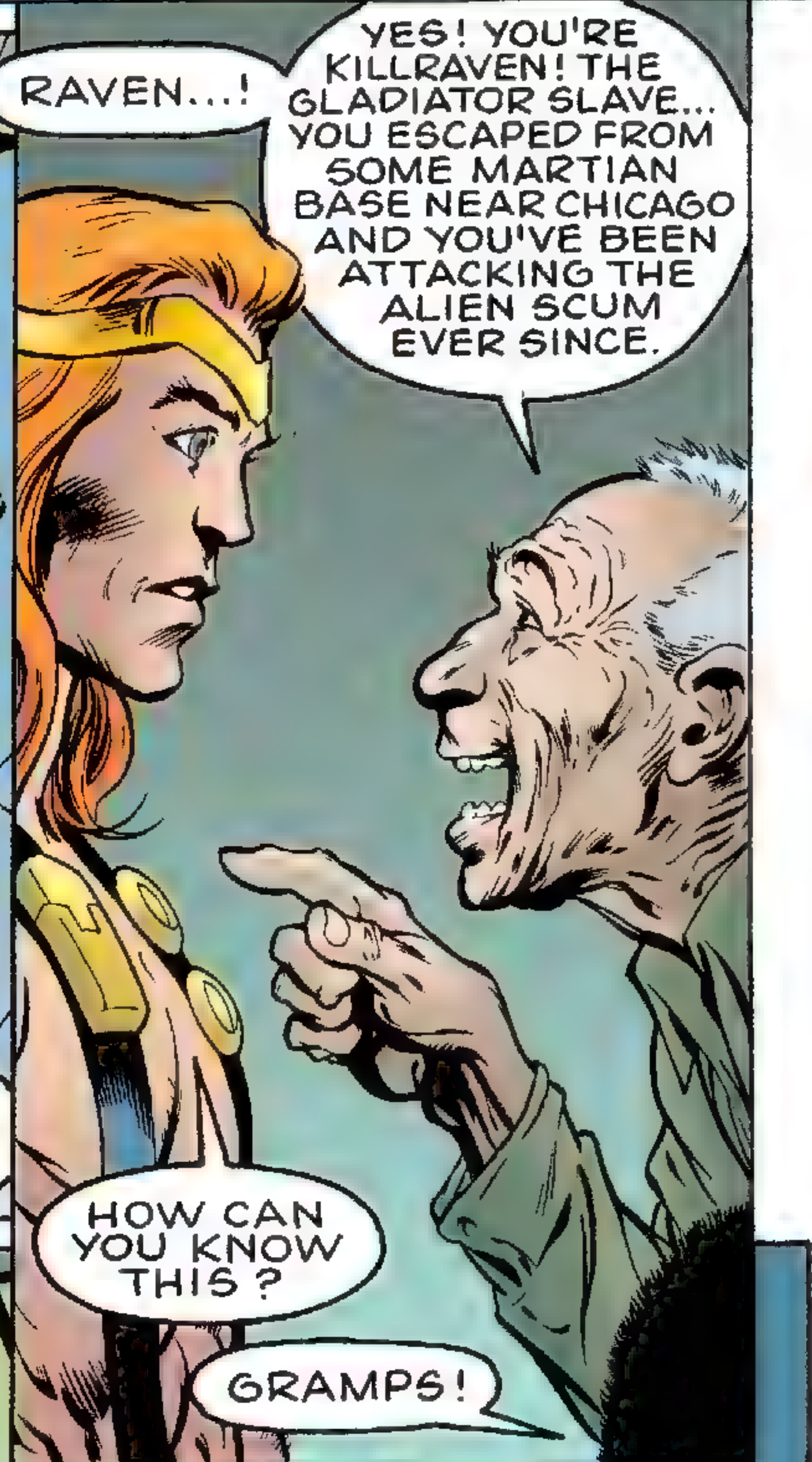
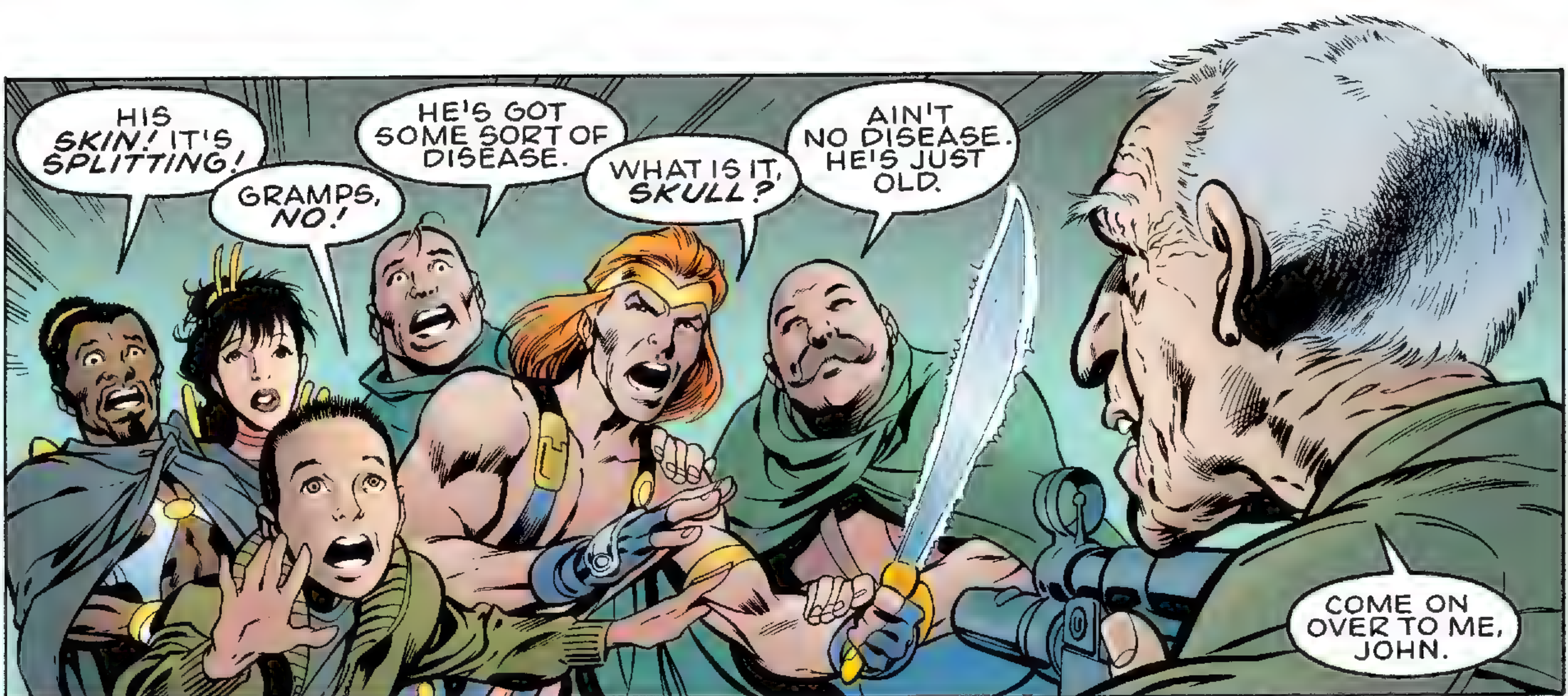
ONLY WHEN I'M SCARED, OR EXCITED...OR LONELY.

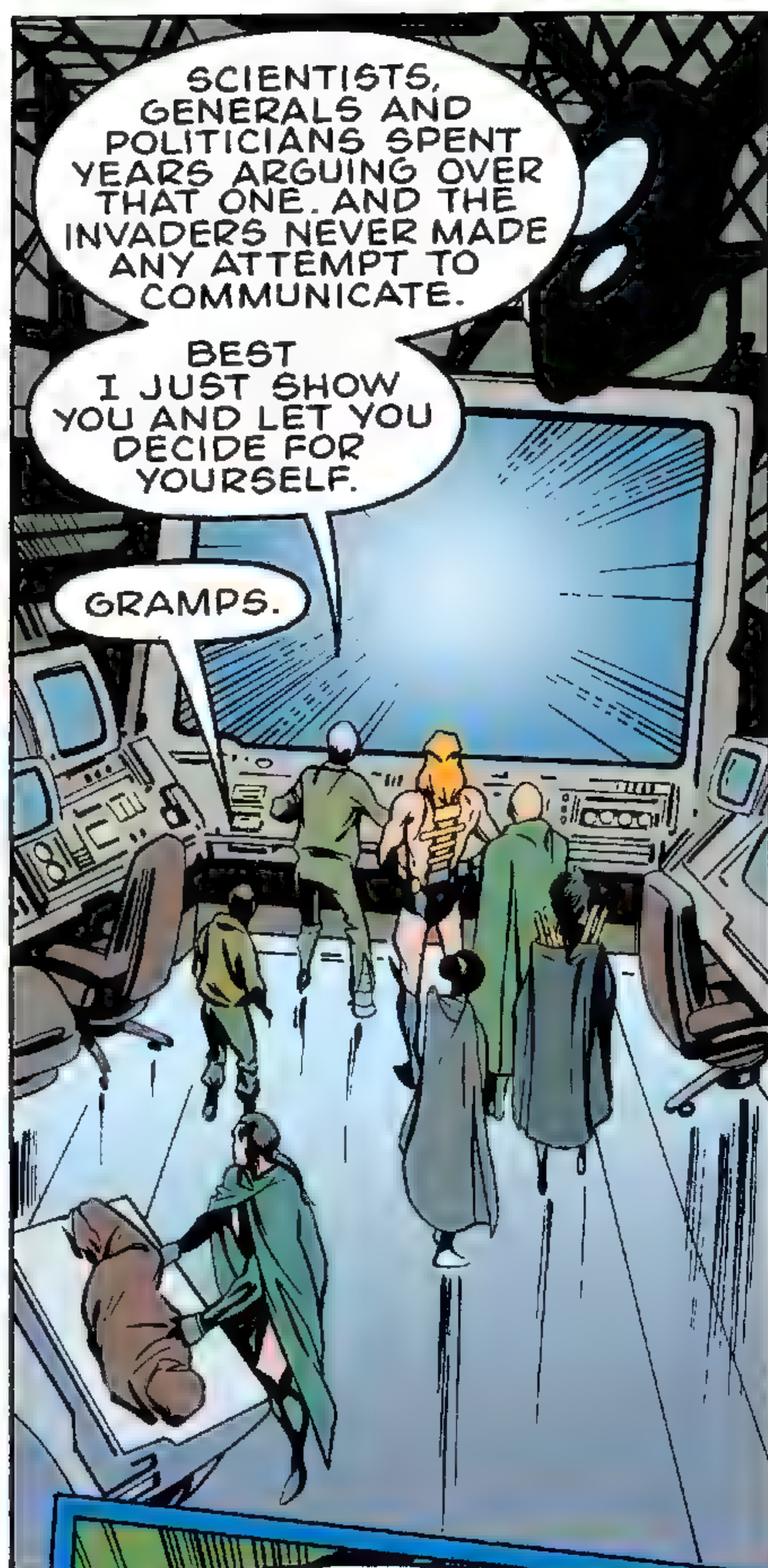
MOM CHANGED THE AIRLOCK ACCESS CODE TO MY BIRTH DATE SO I'D REMEMBER.

THE DOOR WILL SHUT AUTOMATICALLY ONCE WE'RE IN. THEN WE'LL ALL BE SAFE.

JUST YOU HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!



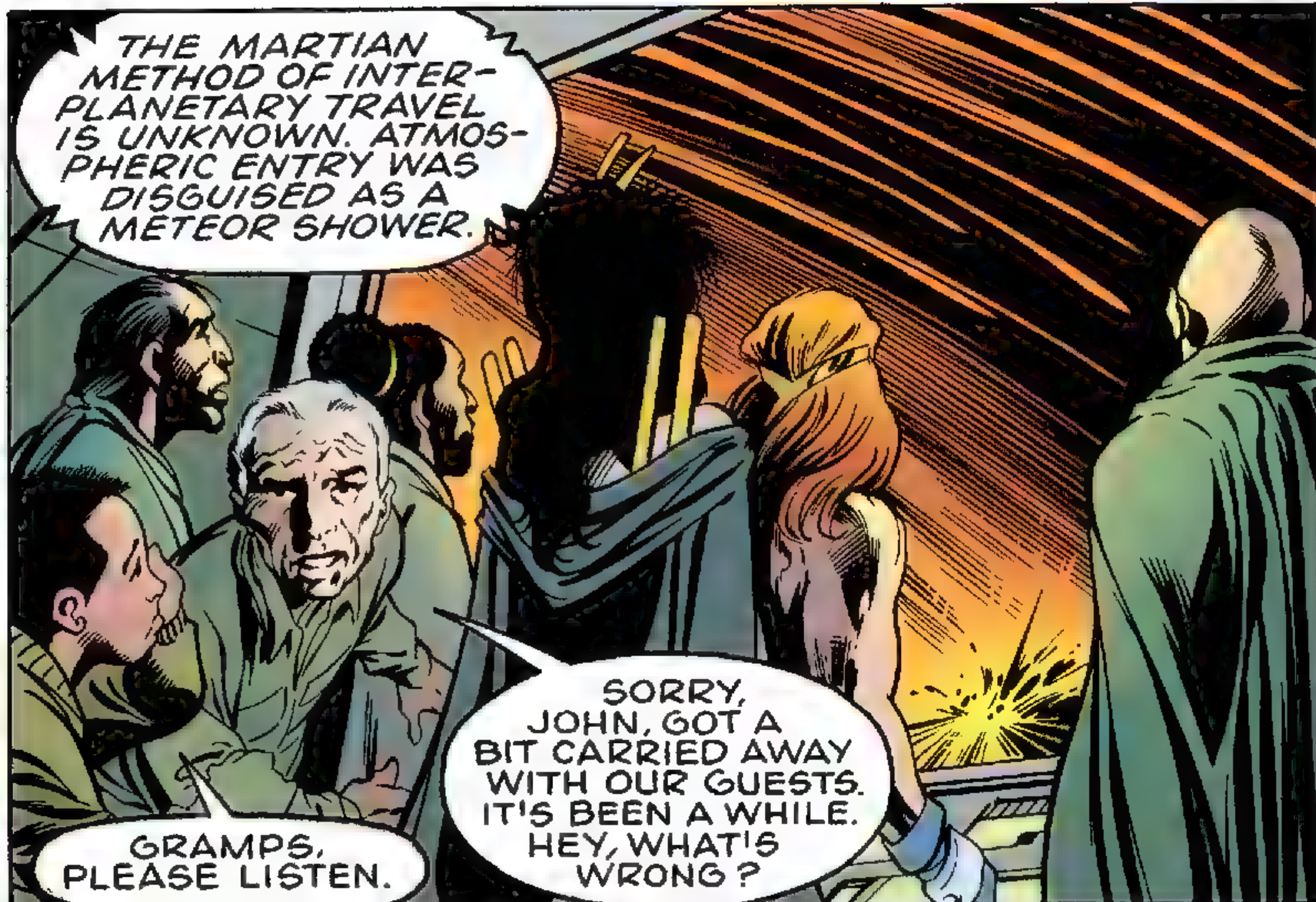




SCIENTISTS, GENERALS AND POLITICIANS SPENT YEARS ARGUING OVER THAT ONE. AND THE INVADERS NEVER MADE ANY ATTEMPT TO COMMUNICATE.

BEST I JUST SHOW YOU AND LET YOU DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.

GRAMPS.



THE MARTIAN METHOD OF INTER-PLANETARY TRAVEL IS UNKNOWN. ATMOSPHERIC ENTRY WAS DISGUISED AS A METEOR SHOWER.

SORRY, JOHN, GOT A BIT CARRIED AWAY WITH OUR GUESTS. IT'S BEEN A WHILE. HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?

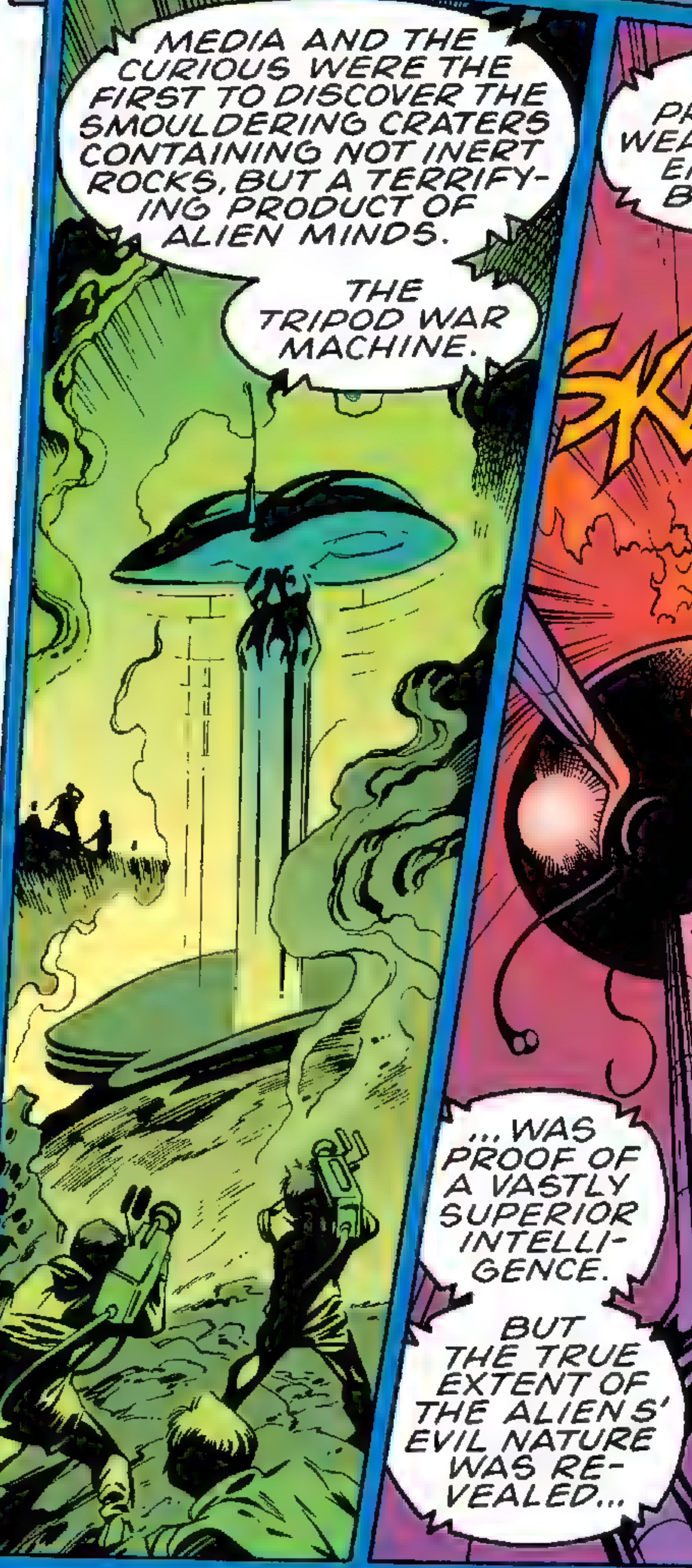
GRAMPS, PLEASE LISTEN.



FROM THE BEGINNING IT WAS CLEAR HUMAN LIFE HAD NO VALUE TO THE ALIENS.

MOM'S DEAD.

THEY WANTED THE EARTH AND MANKIND WAS AN INCONVENIENT INFESTATION TO BE EXTERMINATED.



MEDIA AND THE CURIOUS WERE THE FIRST TO DISCOVER THE SMOULDERING CRATERS CONTAINING NOT INERT ROCKS, BUT A TERRIFYING PRODUCT OF ALIEN MINDS.

THE TRIPOD WAR MACHINE.

ITS PRIMARY WEAPON, AN ENERGY BEAM...

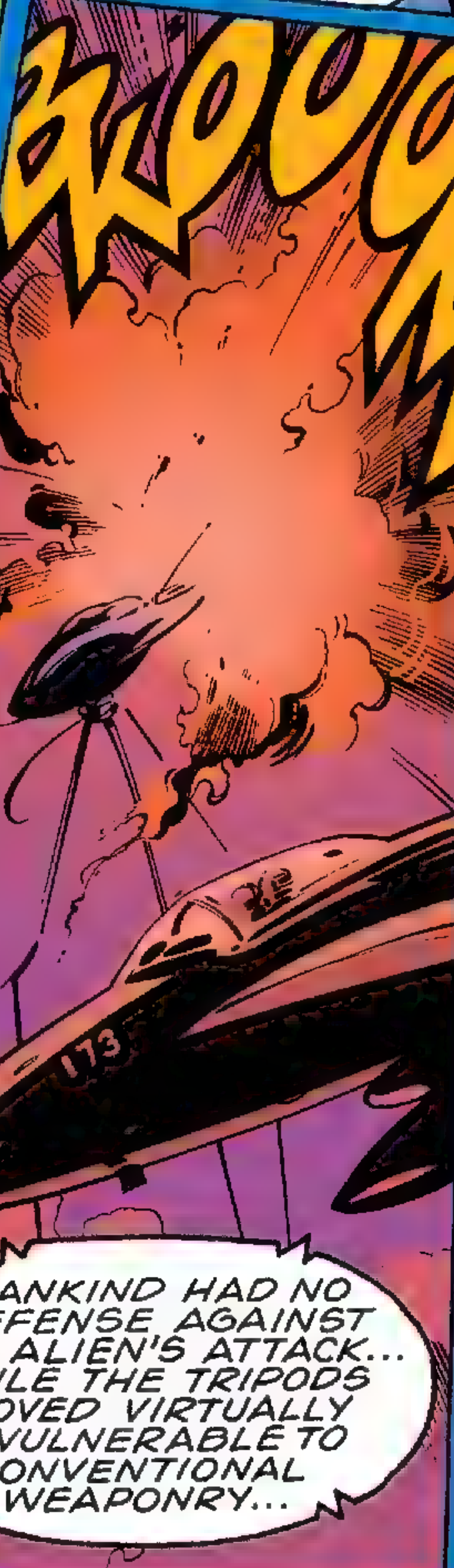
SKR
EE
EE

...BY THE INSIDIOUS BLACK VAPOR...

...THAT DISSOLVES ALL ORGANIC MATTER ON CONTACT, LEAVING PROPERTY UNSCATHED.

... WAS PROOF OF A VASTLY SUPERIOR INTELLIGENCE.

BUT THE TRUE EXTENT OF THE ALIENS' EVIL NATURE WAS REVEALED...



MANKIND HAD NO DEFENSE AGAINST THE ALIEN'S ATTACK... WHILE THE TRIPODS PROVED VIRTUALLY INVULNERABLE TO CONVENTIONAL WEAPONRY...

NUCLEAR
WEAPONS
WERE QUICKLY
DEPLOYED.

THE
MARTIANS
TOOK CONTROL
OF THEIR
GUIDANCE
SYSTEMS...

... AND
DIRECTED
THEM AT
EARTH'S
DEFENSE
FORCES.

AROUND
THE WORLD THE
MILITARY BLINDLY
PERSISTED WITH
THEIR FUTILE
ATOMIC ONSLAUGHT,
AND WHEN THAT
FAILED...

... A COCKTAIL
OF BIOLOGICAL
AND CHEMICAL
AGENTS WAS
UNLEASHED.

THE
MARTIANS
WERE
IMMUNE.

BUT, AS
THE WAR
RAGED...

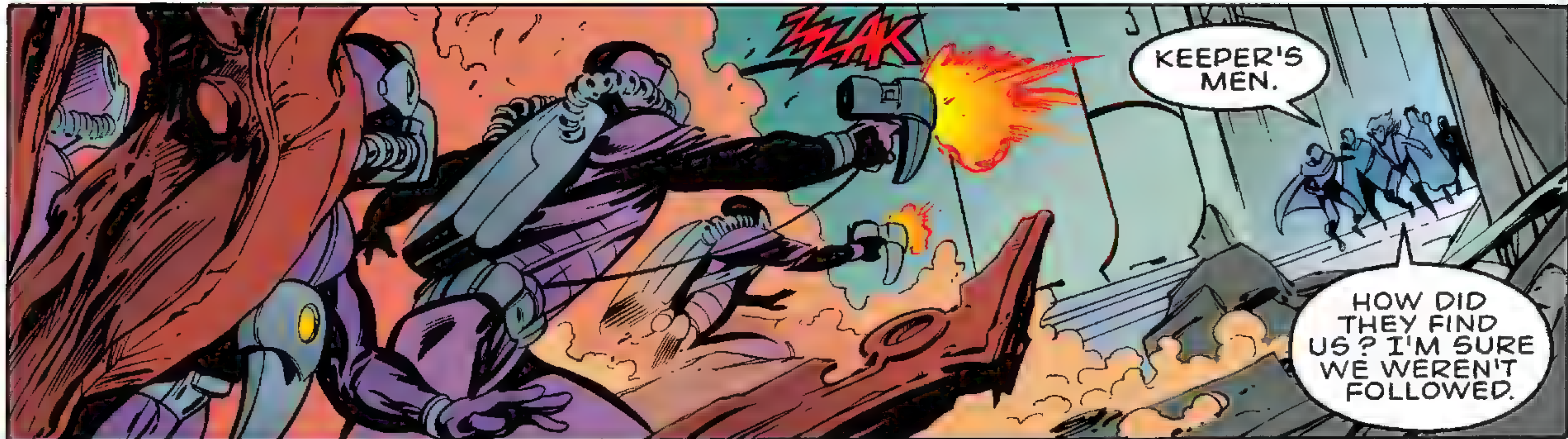
... VALIANT
SACRIFICES
PROVED THE
TRIPODS
COULD BE
BEATEN...

... BUT IT
WAS ALL TOO
LATE.

THE FALLOUT AND
PLAGUES PRODUCED BY
MAN'S ILL-CONCEIVED
ATTACKS BEGAN TO DECI-
MATE HUMANITY. OUR OWN
DESTRUCTIVE INSTINCT HAD
SEALED OUR DOOM.

THAT
SOUNDS LIKE
AN ENERGY
WEAPON.

KRAAM



KEEPER'S MEN.

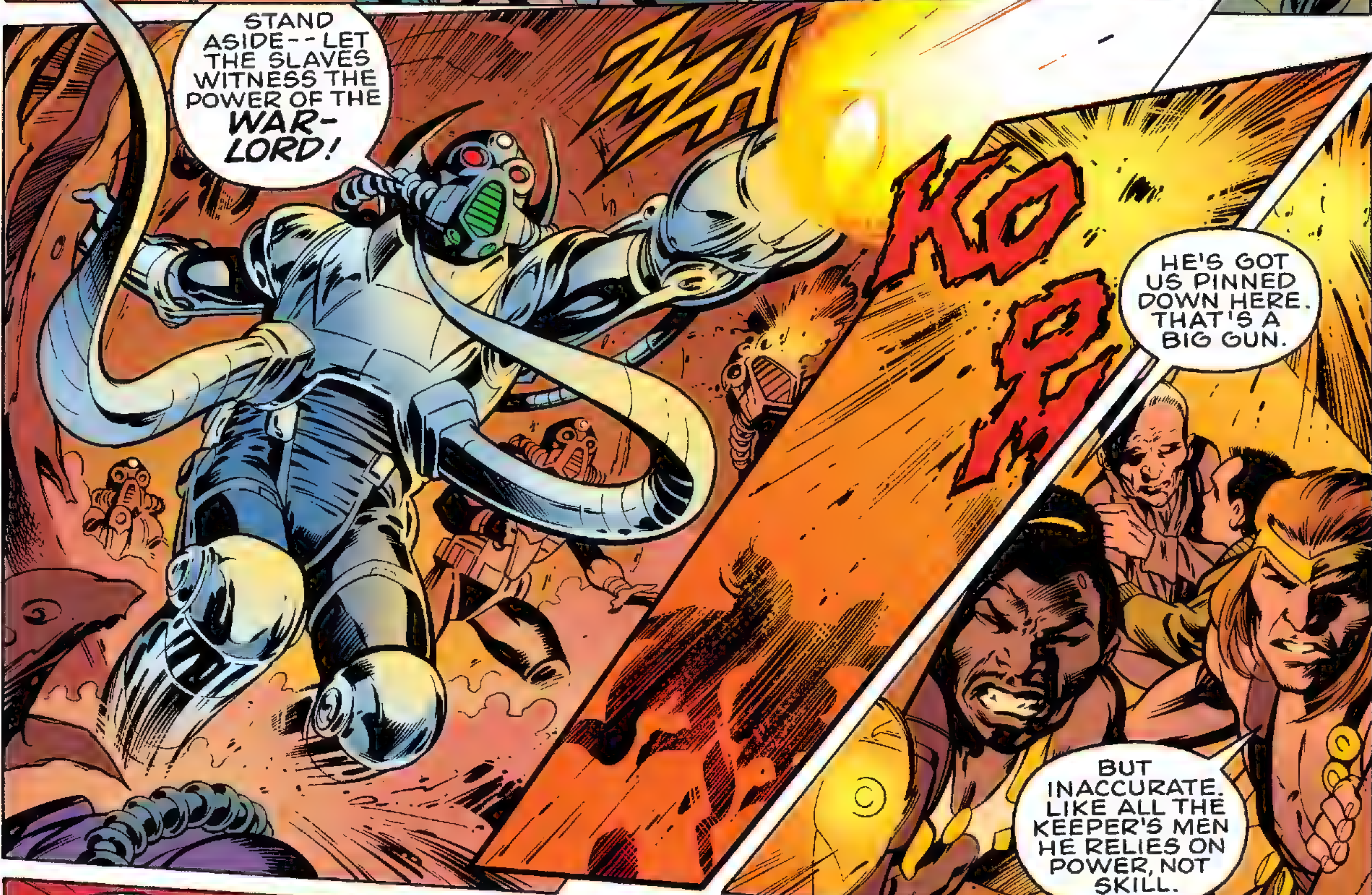
HOW DID THEY FIND US? I'M SURE WE WEREN'T FOLLOWED.



LET THEM HAVE A TASTE OF THEIR OWN WEAPONS.

IF YOU BOYS TOOK THAT ARTILLERY FROM THE KEEPER'S MEN, THAT'S HOW THEY TRACKED YOU. IT'S ALL BUGGED.

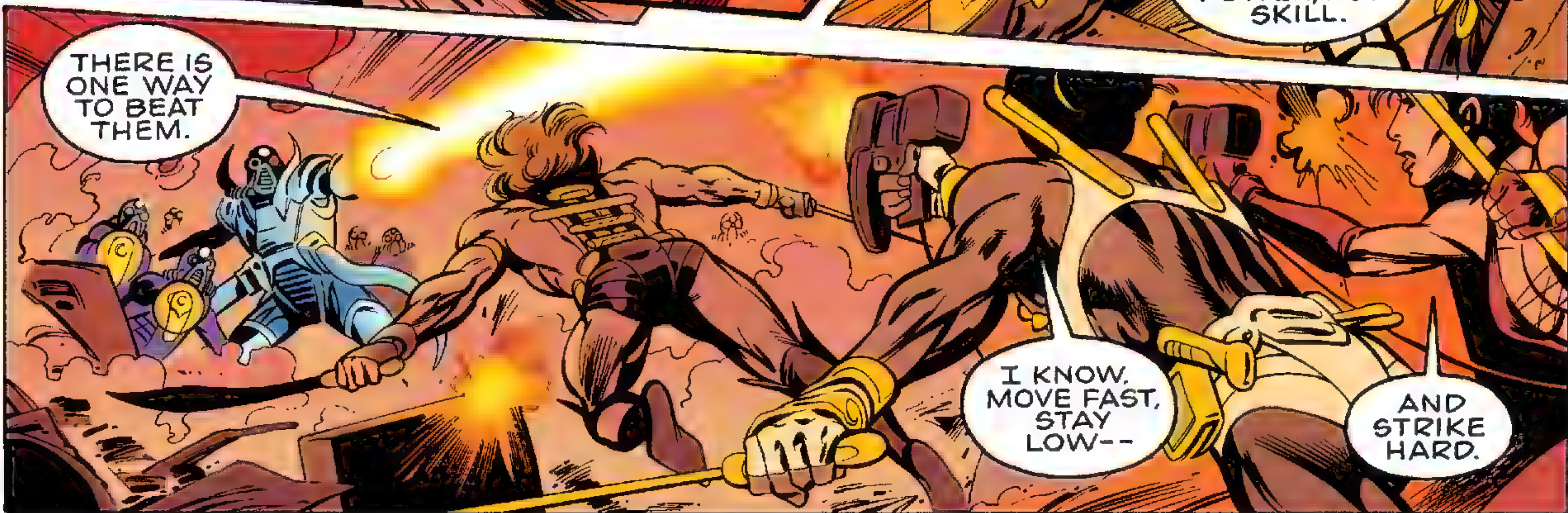
LET US HANDLE THIS, GRAMPS.



STAND ASIDE-- LET THE SLAVES WITNESS THE POWER OF THE WAR-LORD!

HE'S GOT US PINNED DOWN HERE. THAT'S A BIG GUN.

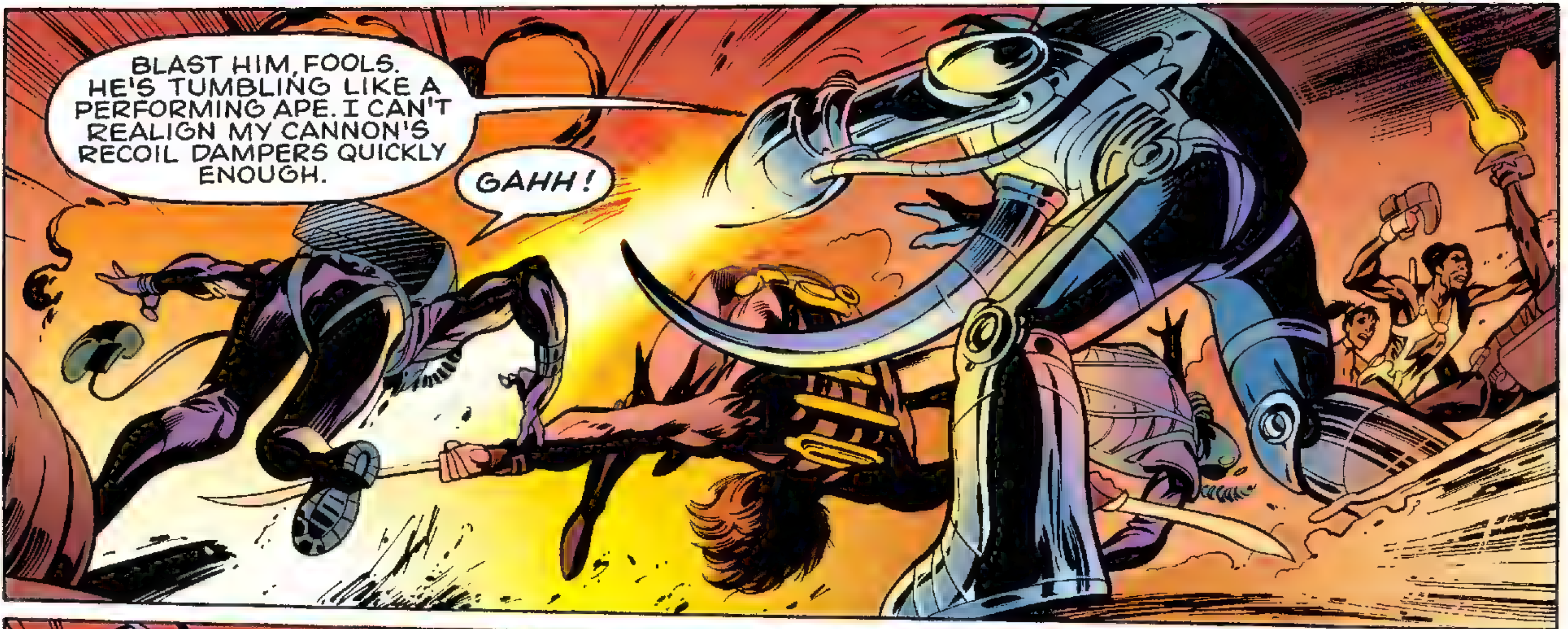
BUT INACCURATE. LIKE ALL THE KEEPER'S MEN HE RELIES ON POWER, NOT SKILL.



THERE IS ONE WAY TO BEAT THEM.

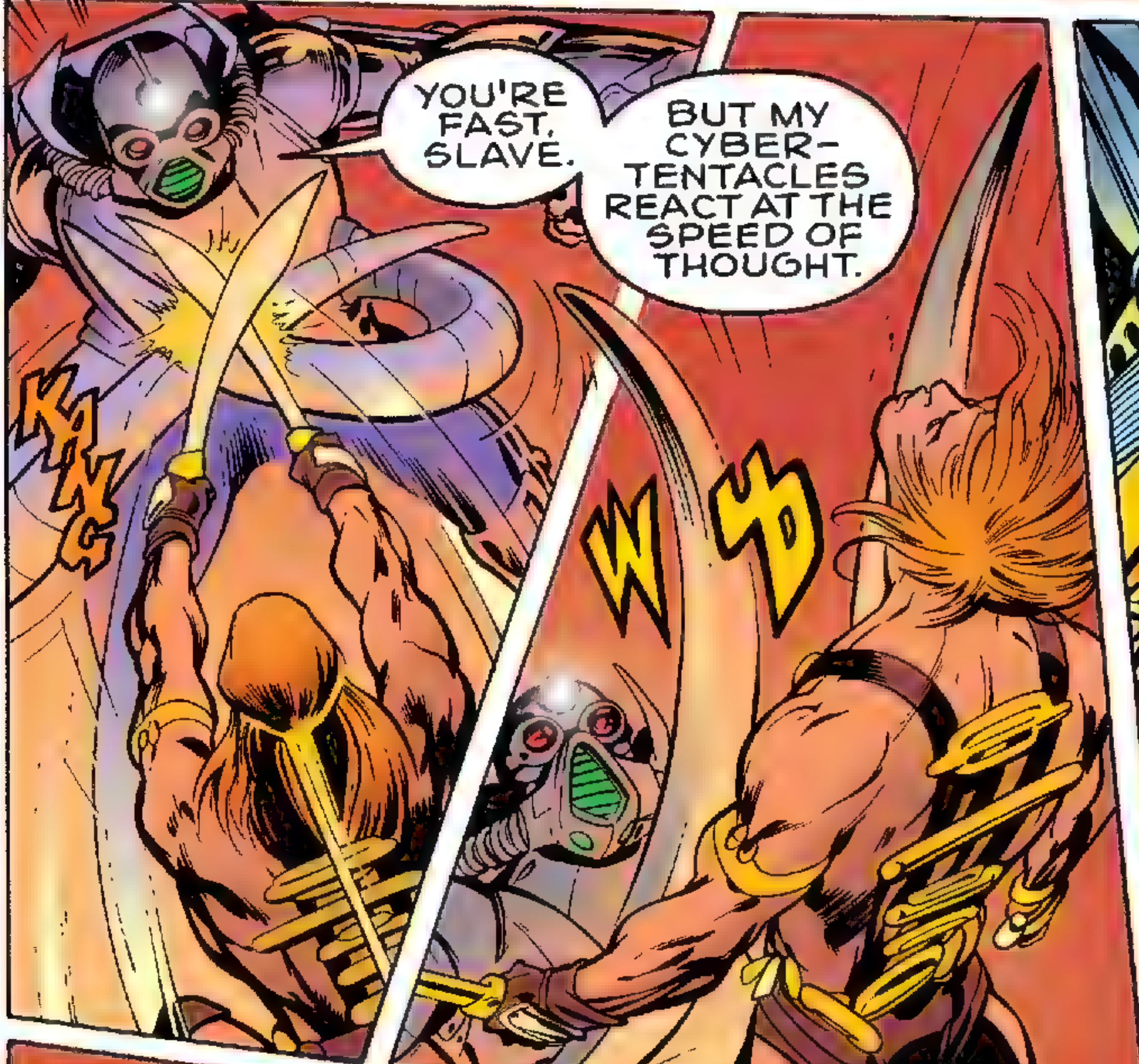
I KNOW. MOVE FAST, STAY LOW--

AND STRIKE HARD.



BLAST HIM, FOOLS.
HE'S TUMBLING LIKE A
PERFORMING APE. I CAN'T
REALIGN MY CANNON'S
RECOIL DAMPERS QUICKLY
ENOUGH.

GAHH!



YOU'RE
FAST,
SLAVE.

BUT MY
CYBER-
TENTACLES
REACT AT THE
SPEED OF
THOUGHT.



AND
MY GAUNTLET
CAN INFLICT A
SLOW, PAINFUL
DEATH.

I HAVE
LIVED WITH
PAIN. LEARNED
TO IGNORE
IT.

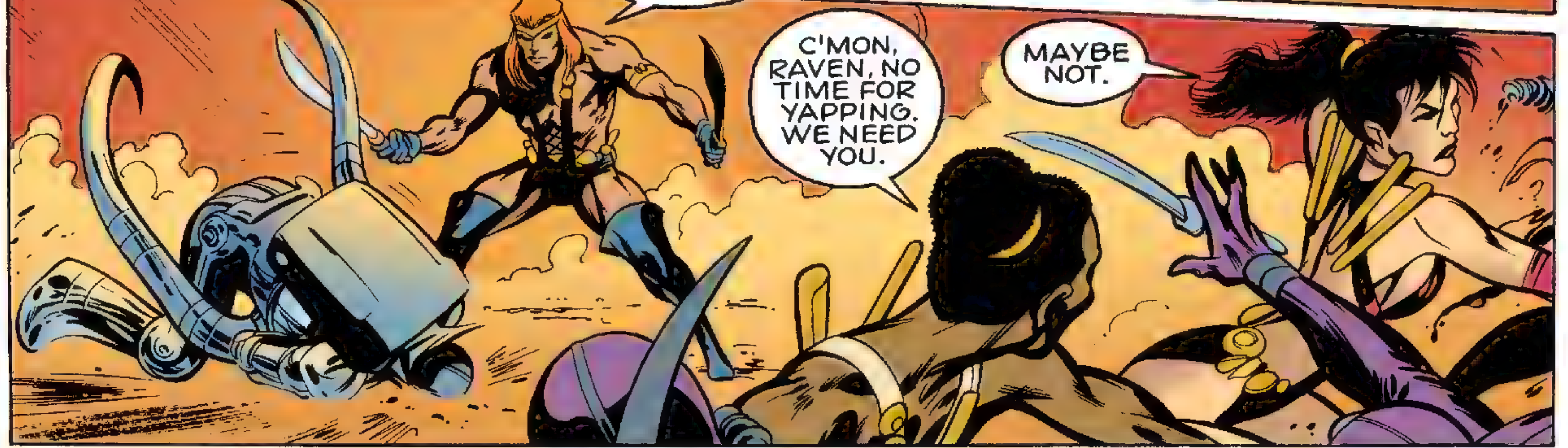
PAIN IS A
DISTRACTION...



SHLIK

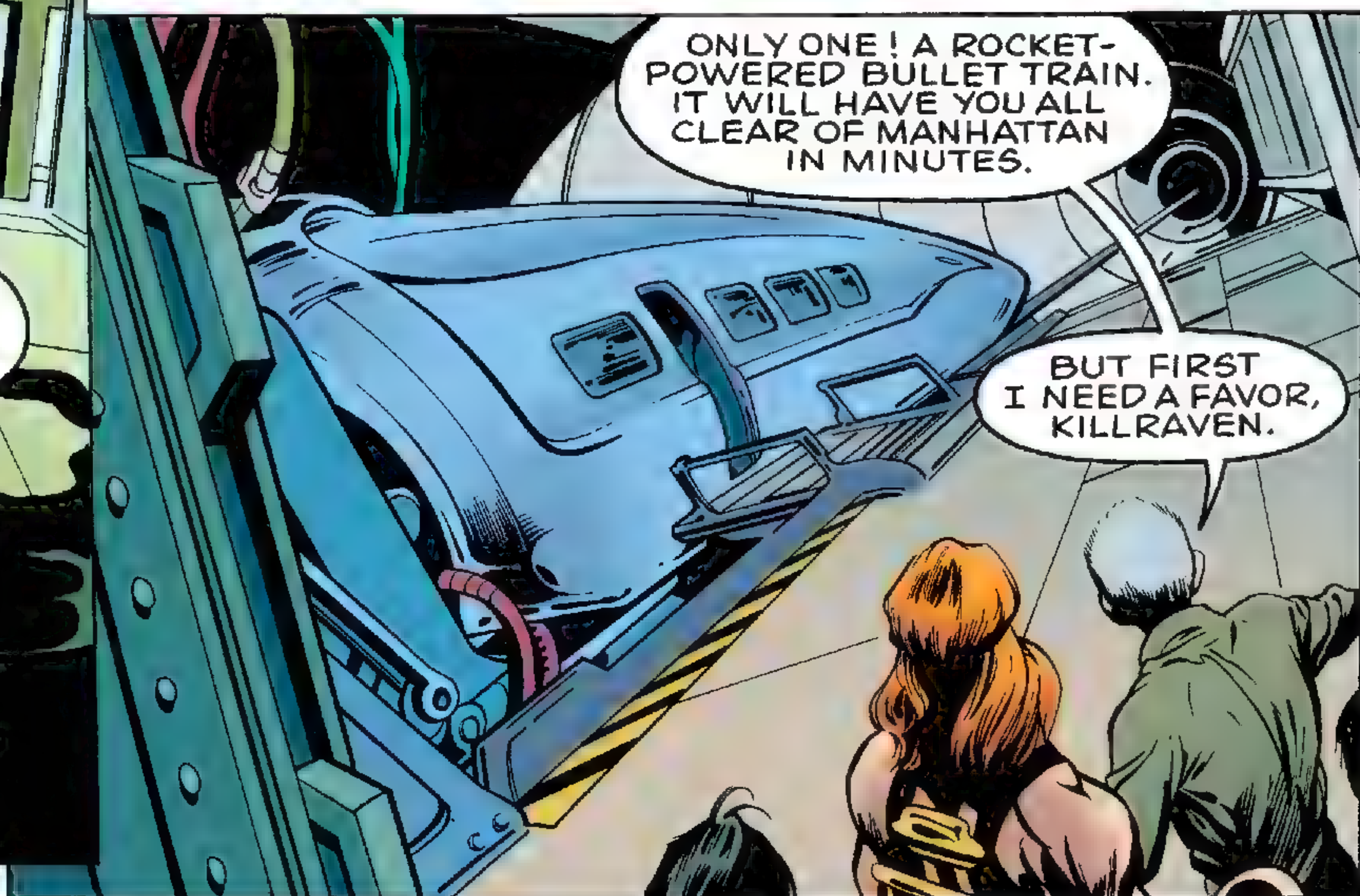
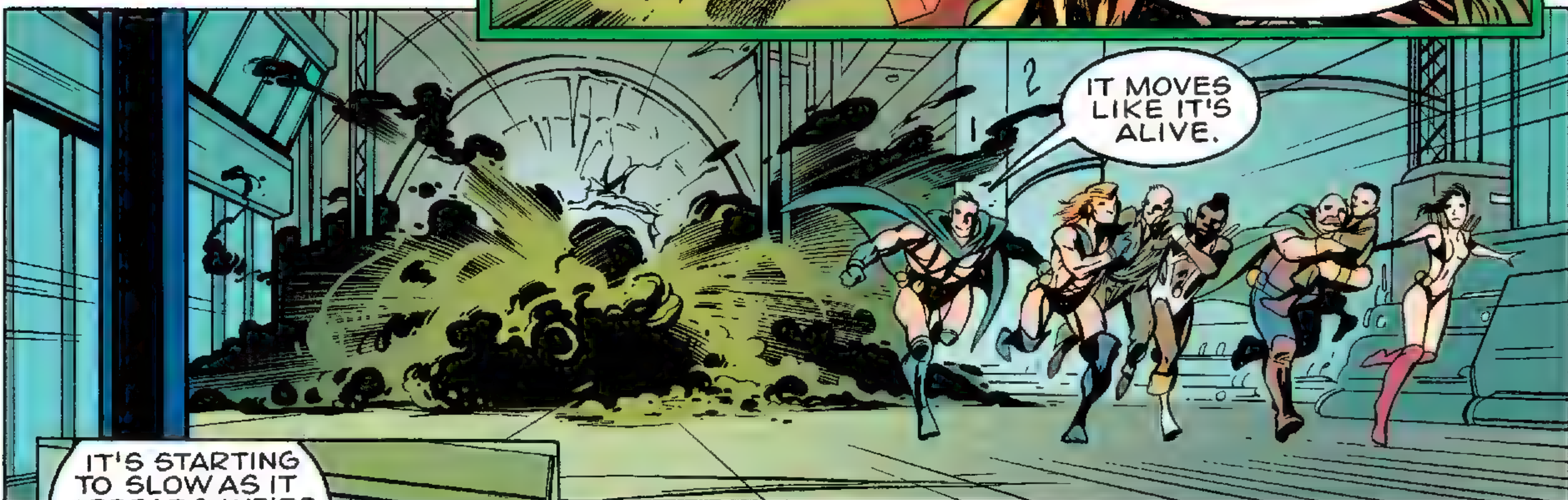
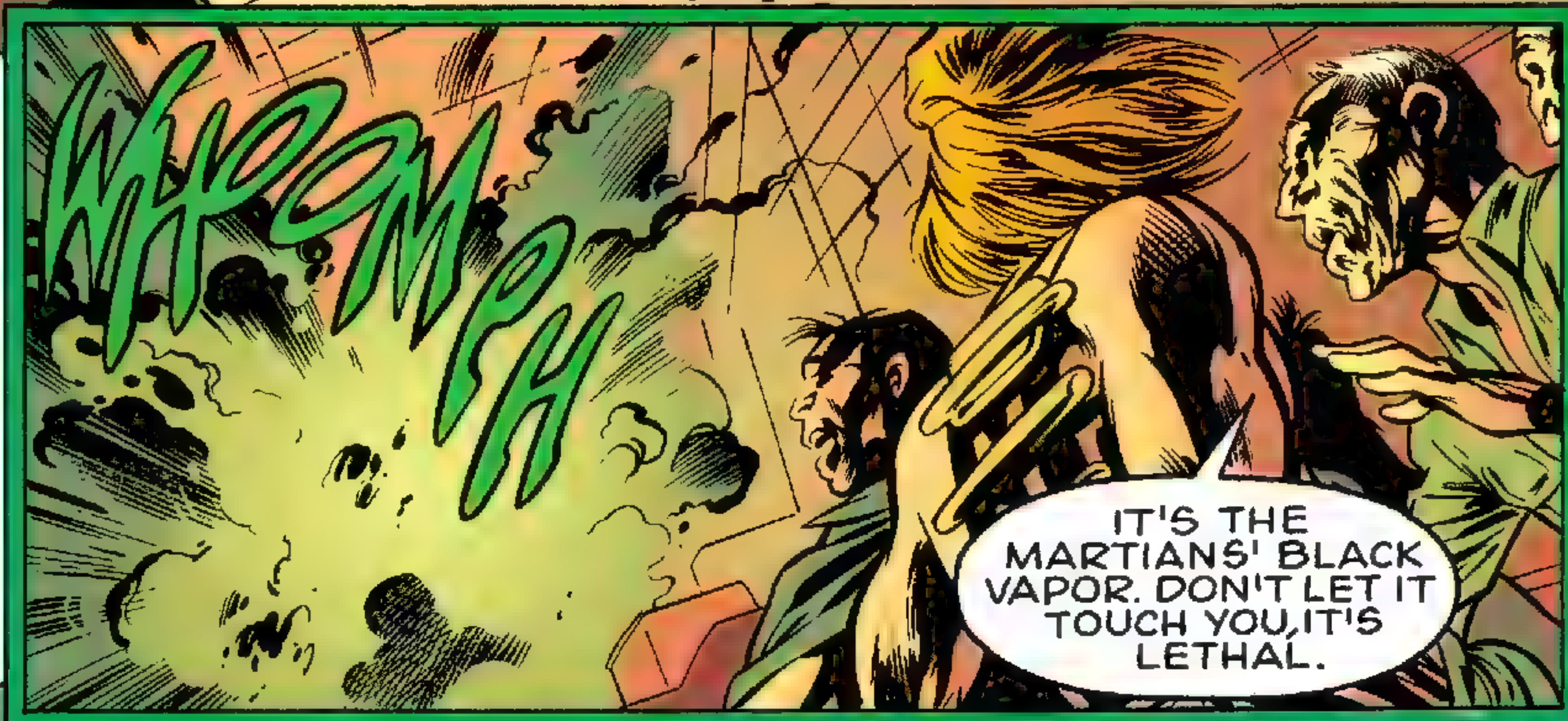
... CAN BE
FATAL.

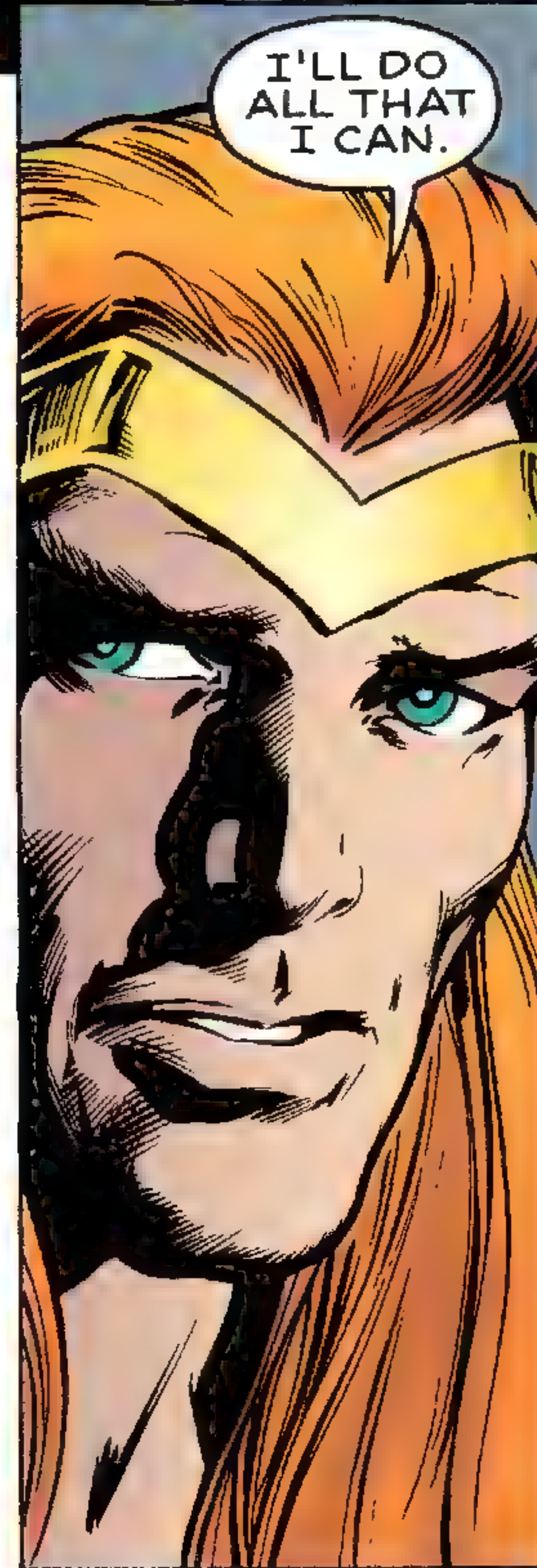
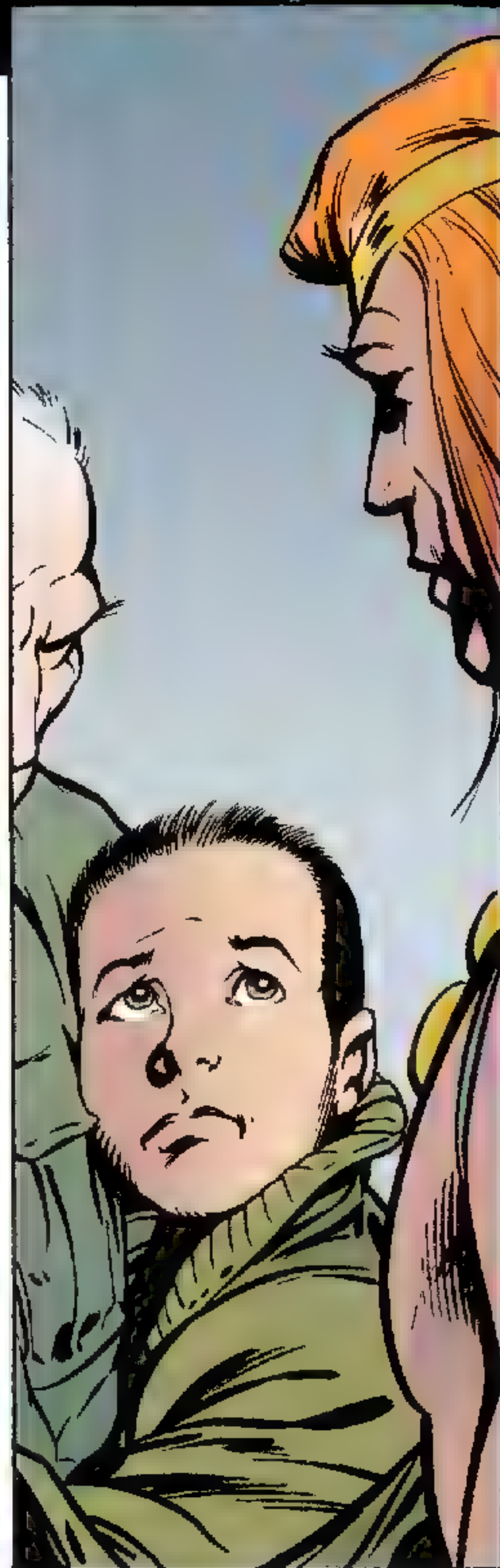
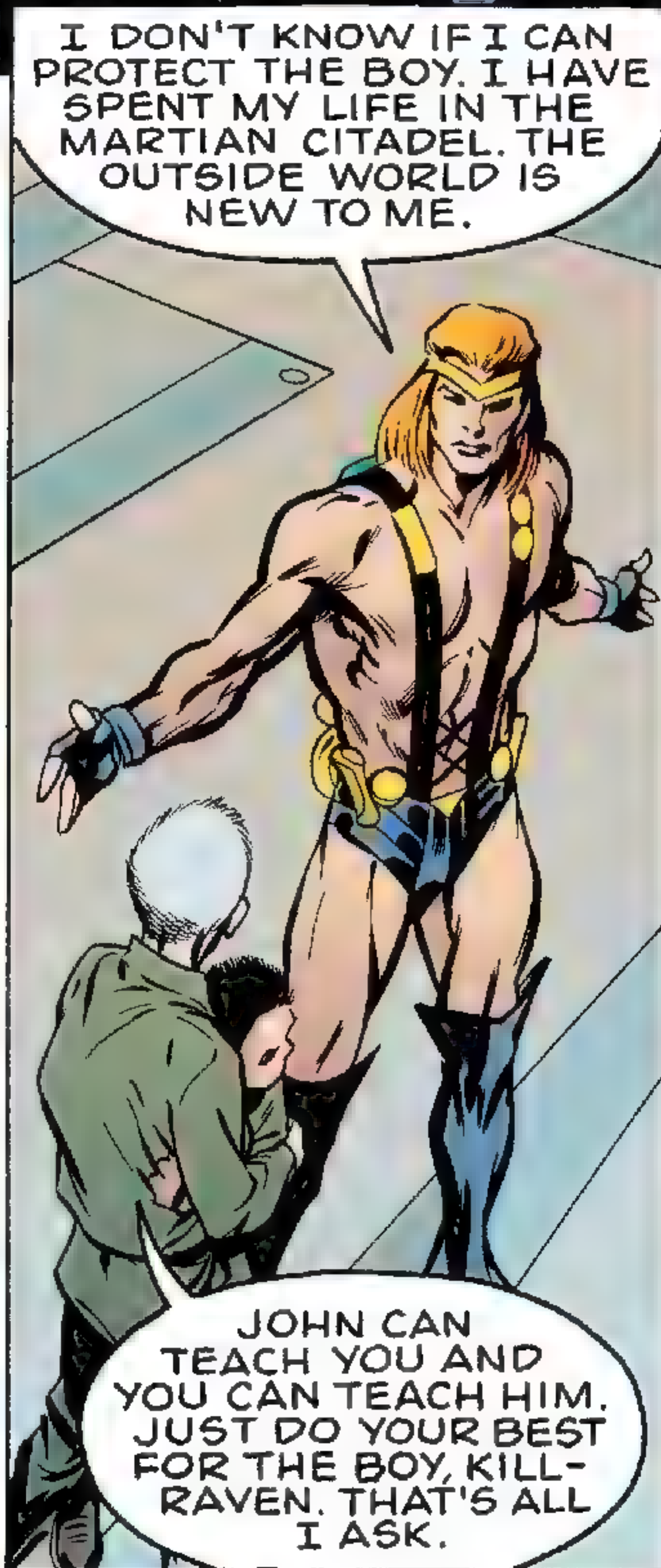
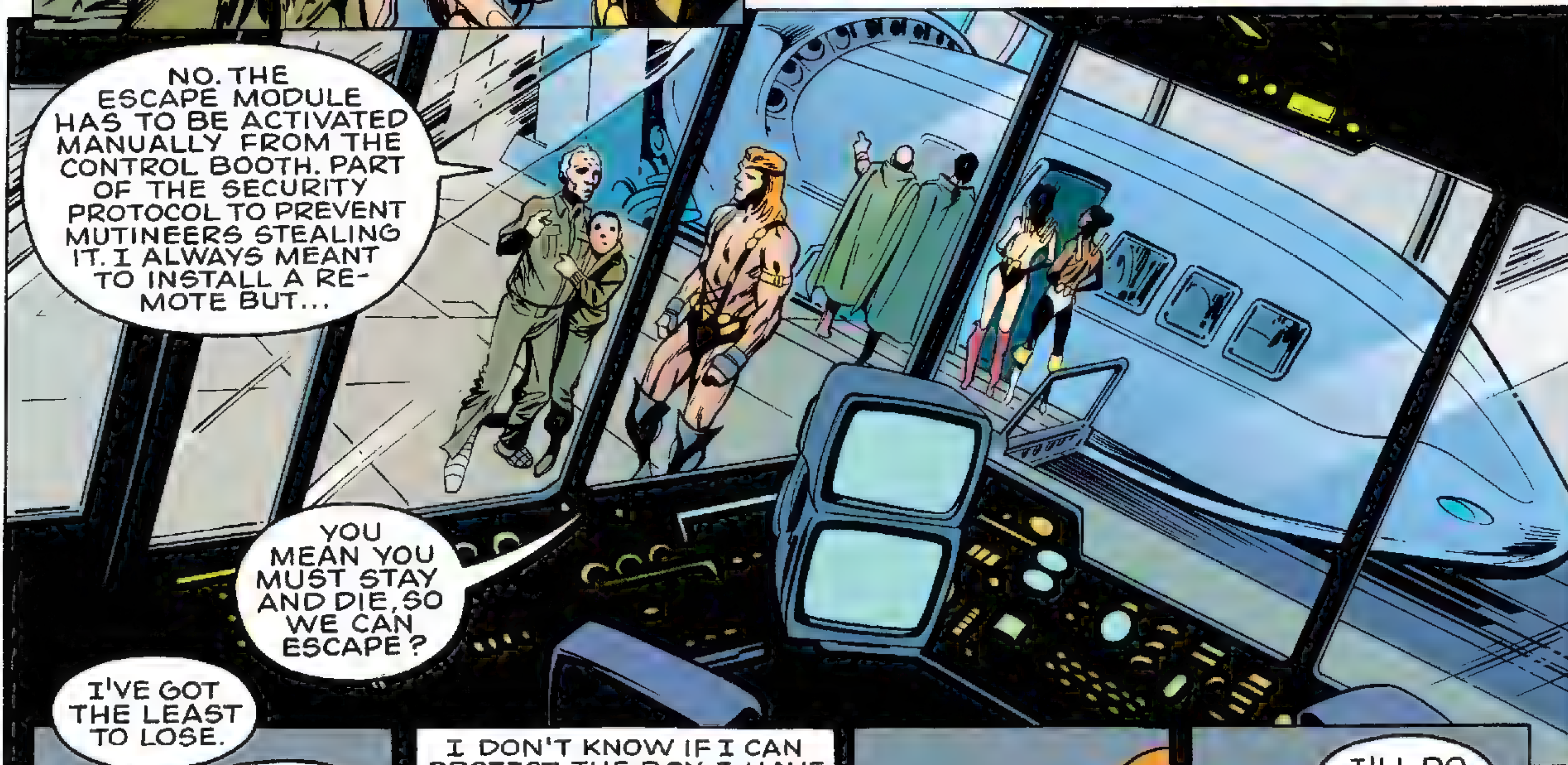
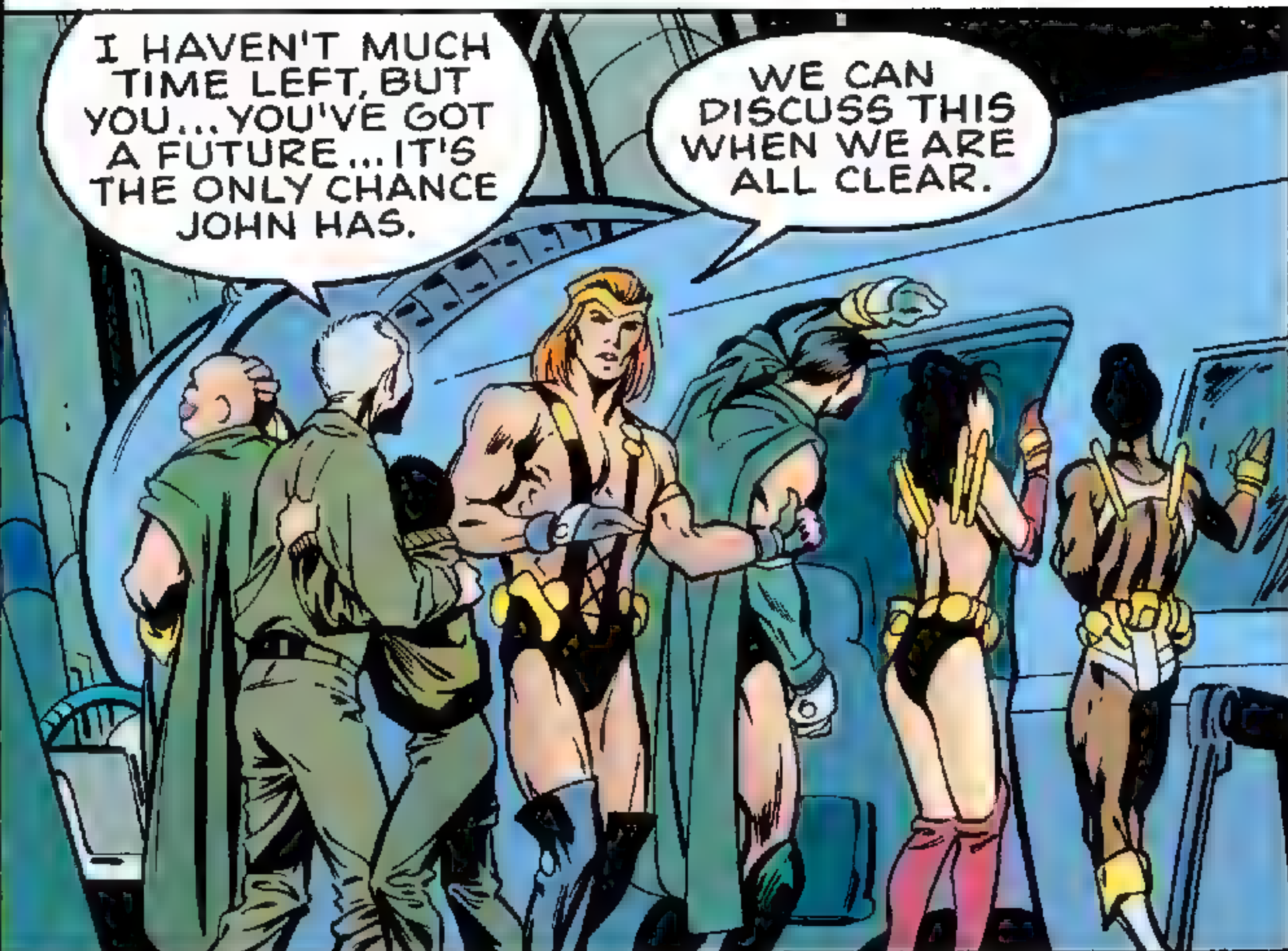
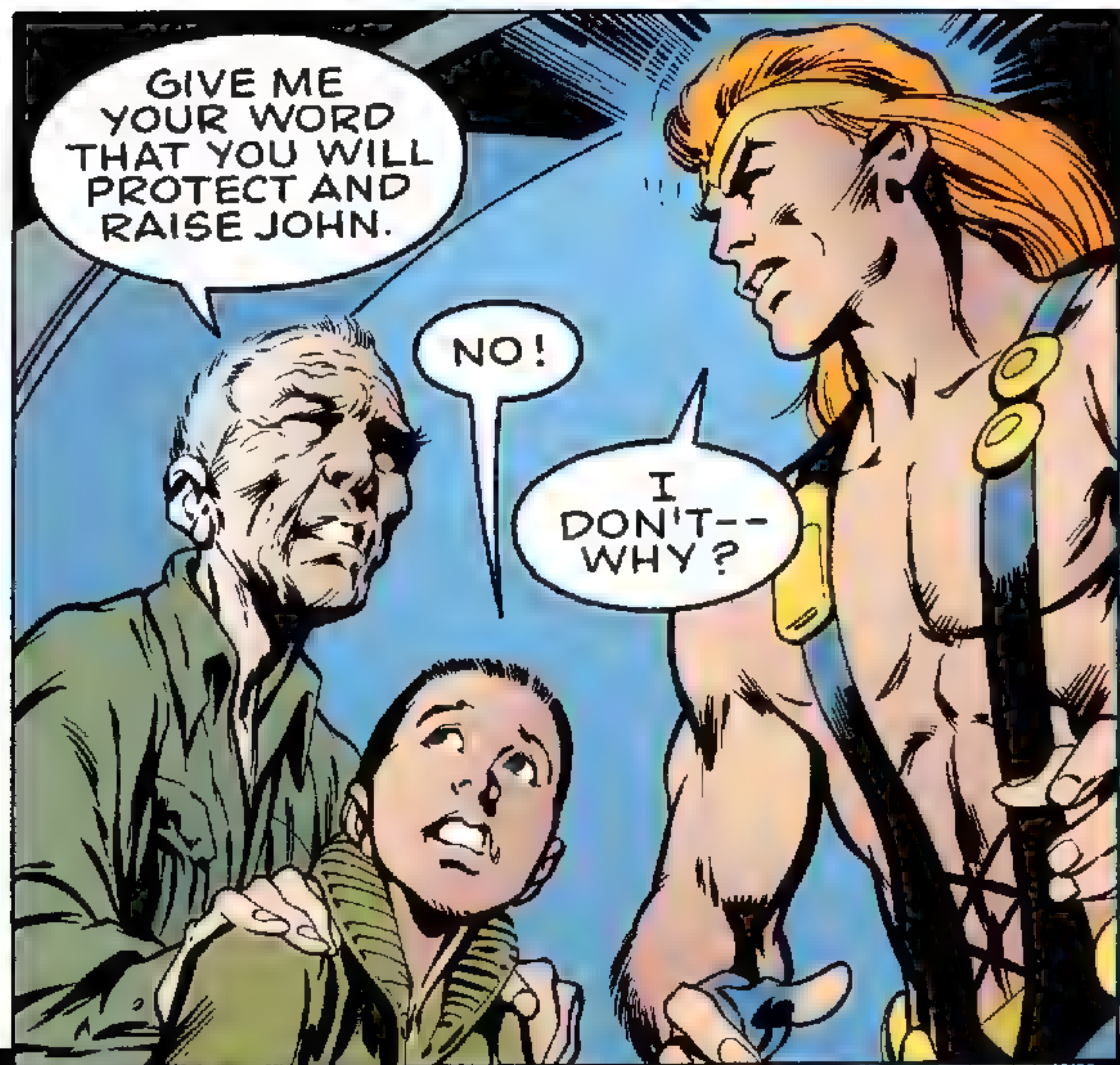
... AND IN THE
ARENA EVEN A
MOMENT OF
HESITATION...

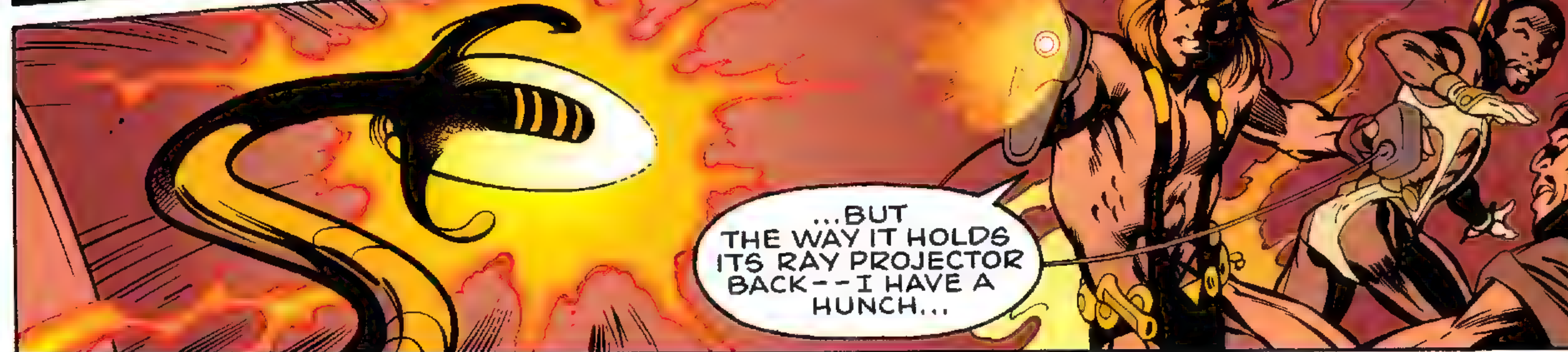
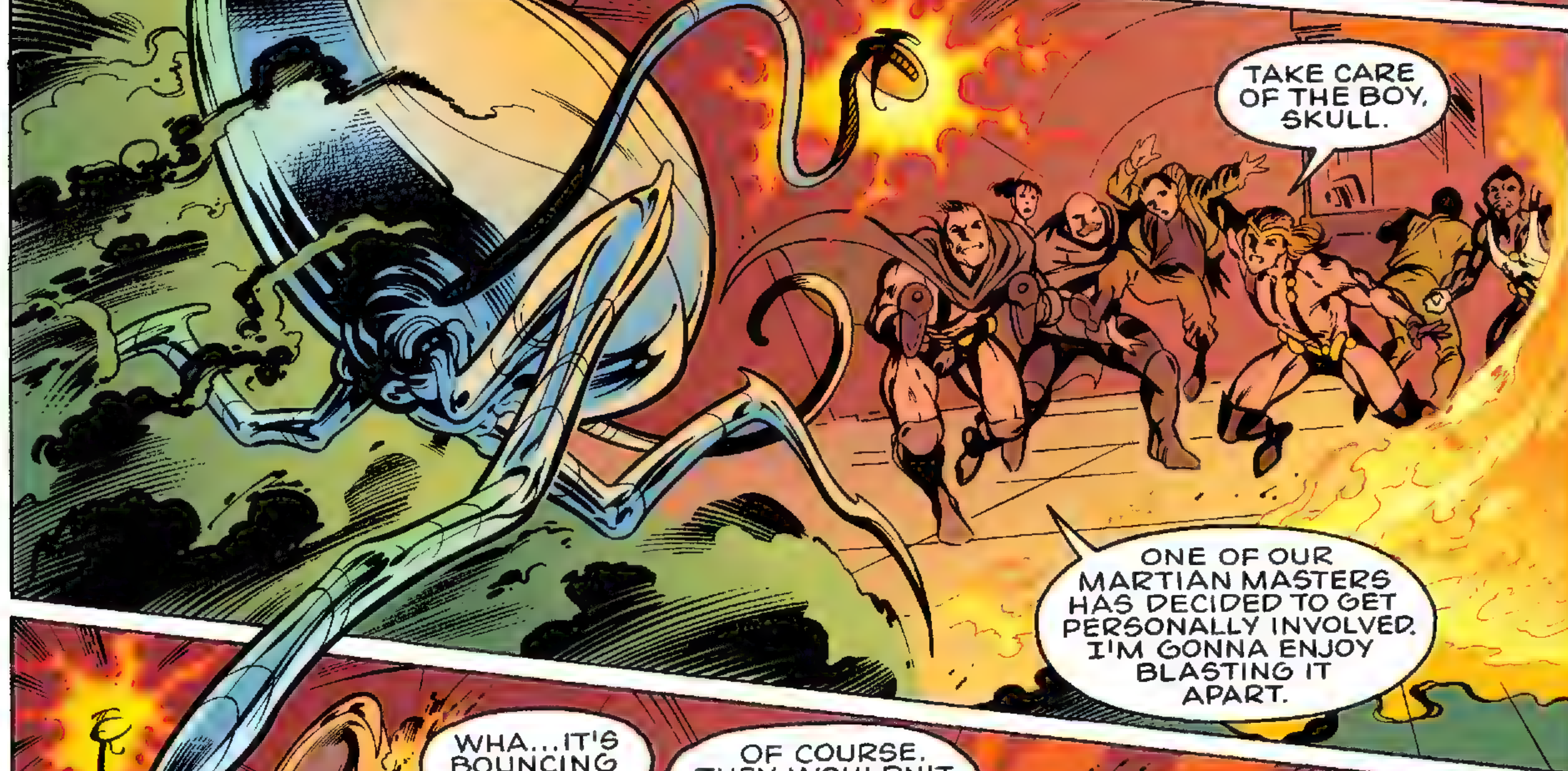
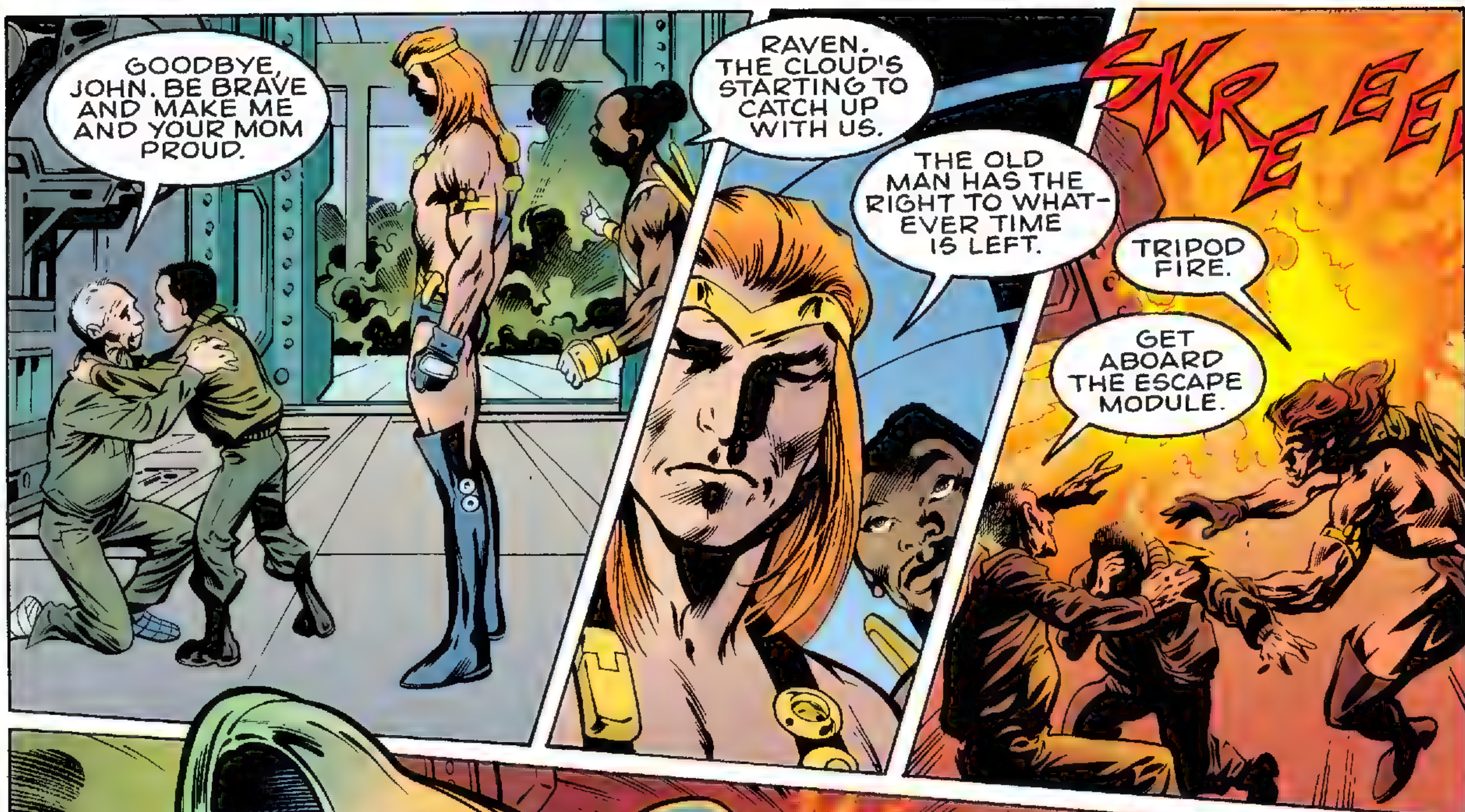


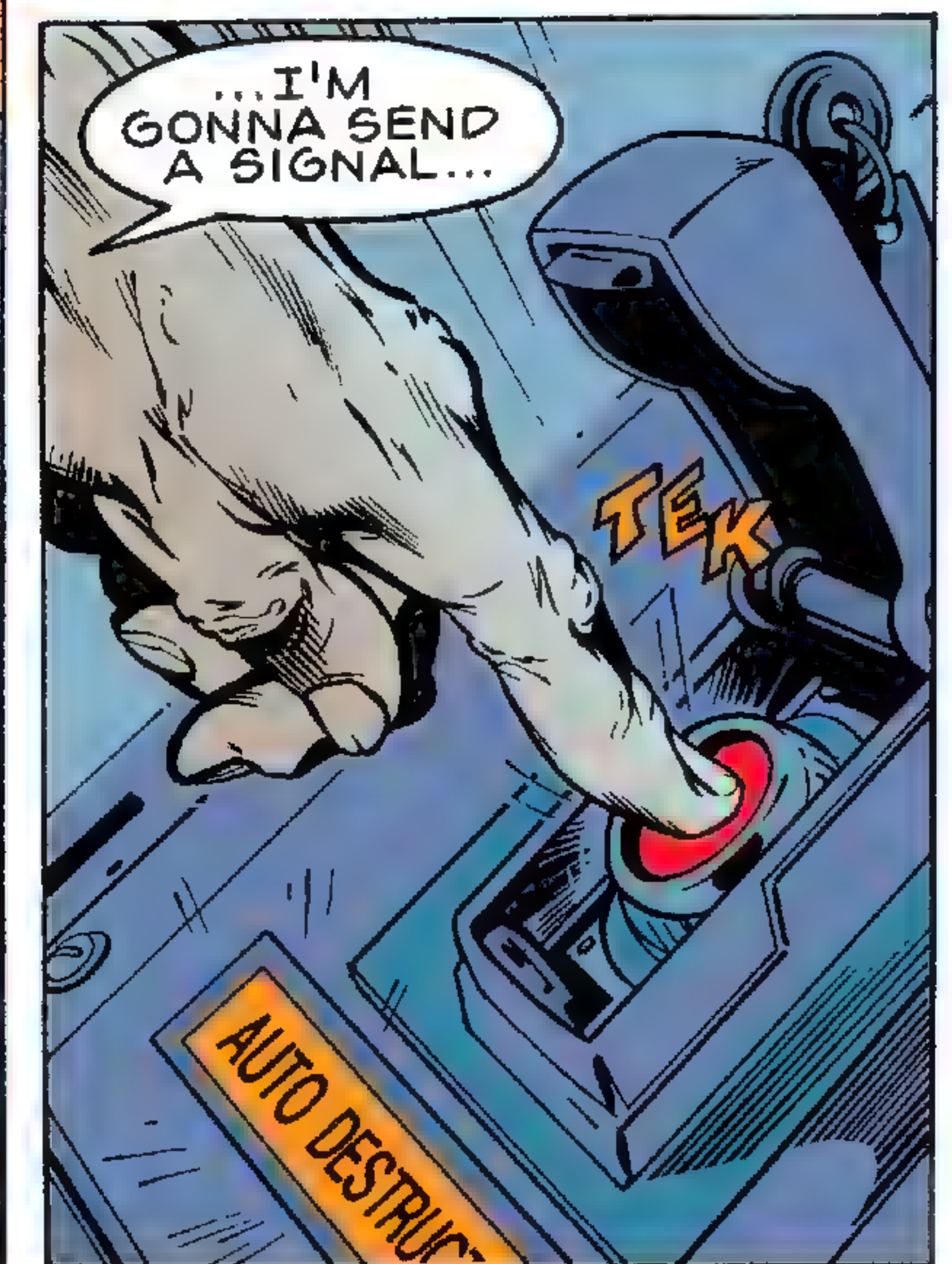
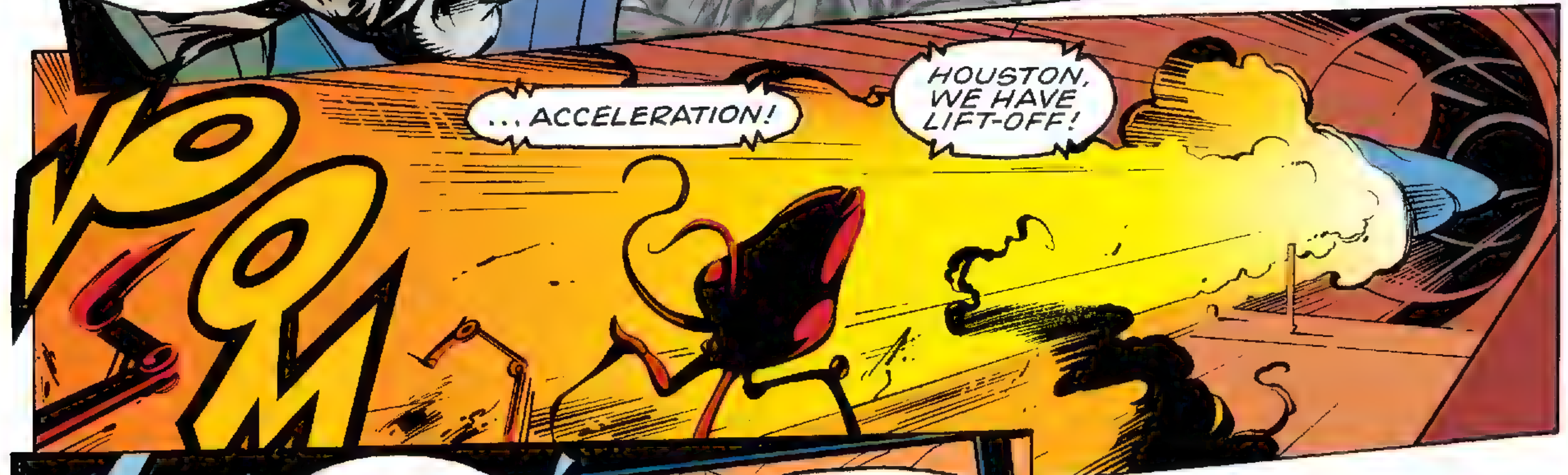
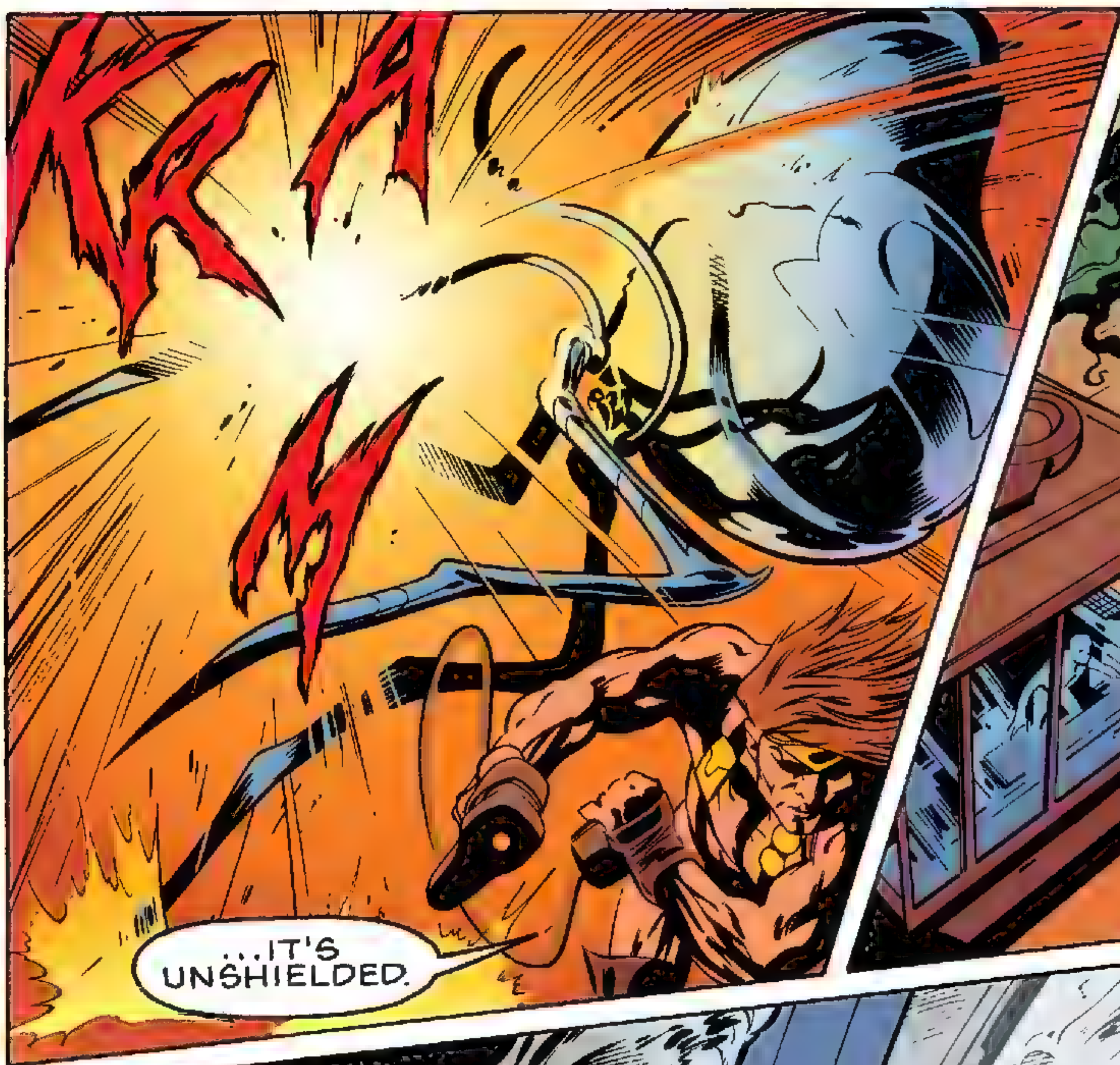
C'MON,
RAVEN, NO
TIME FOR
YAPPING.
WE NEED
YOU.

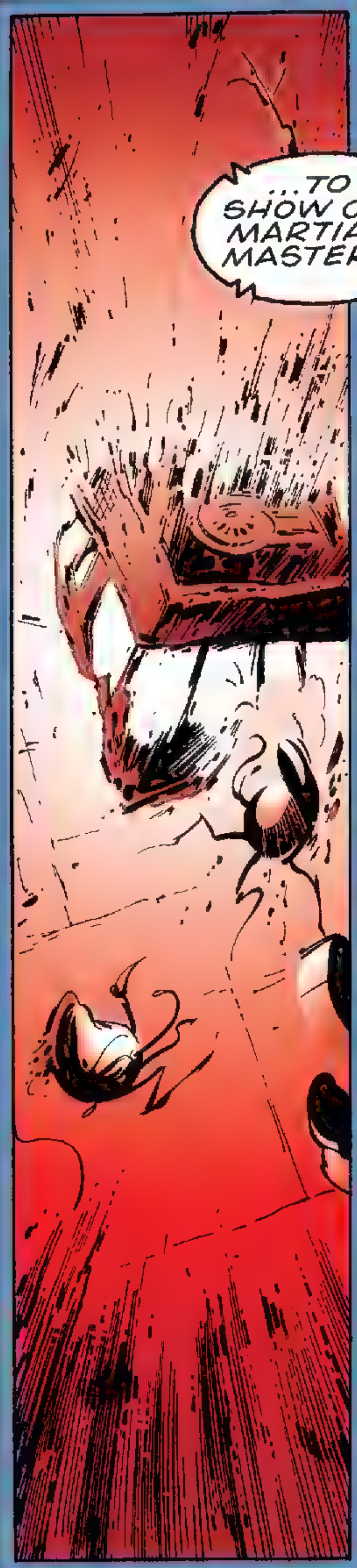
MAYBE
NOT.



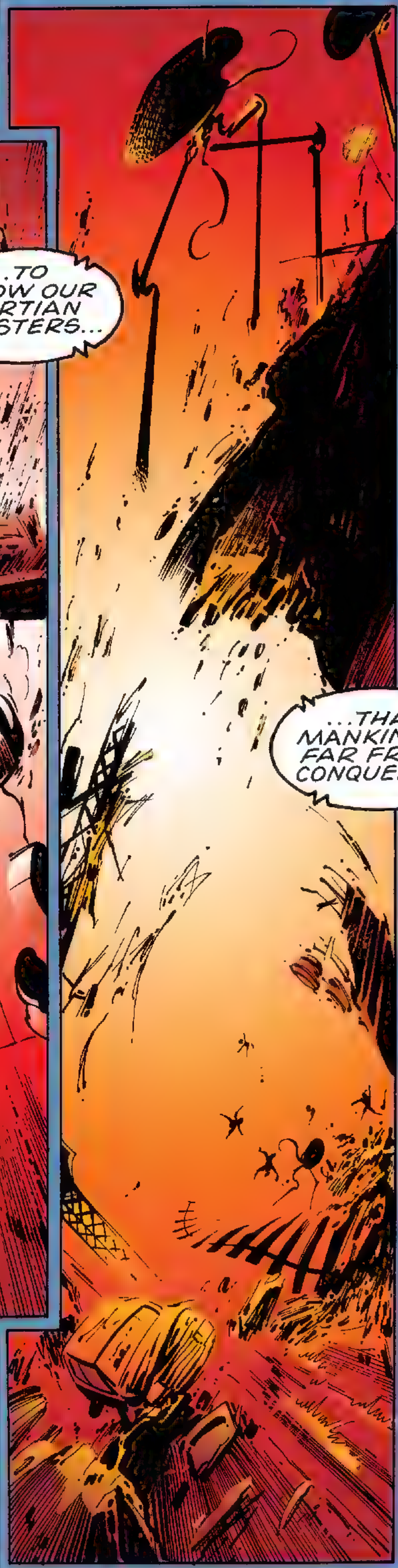




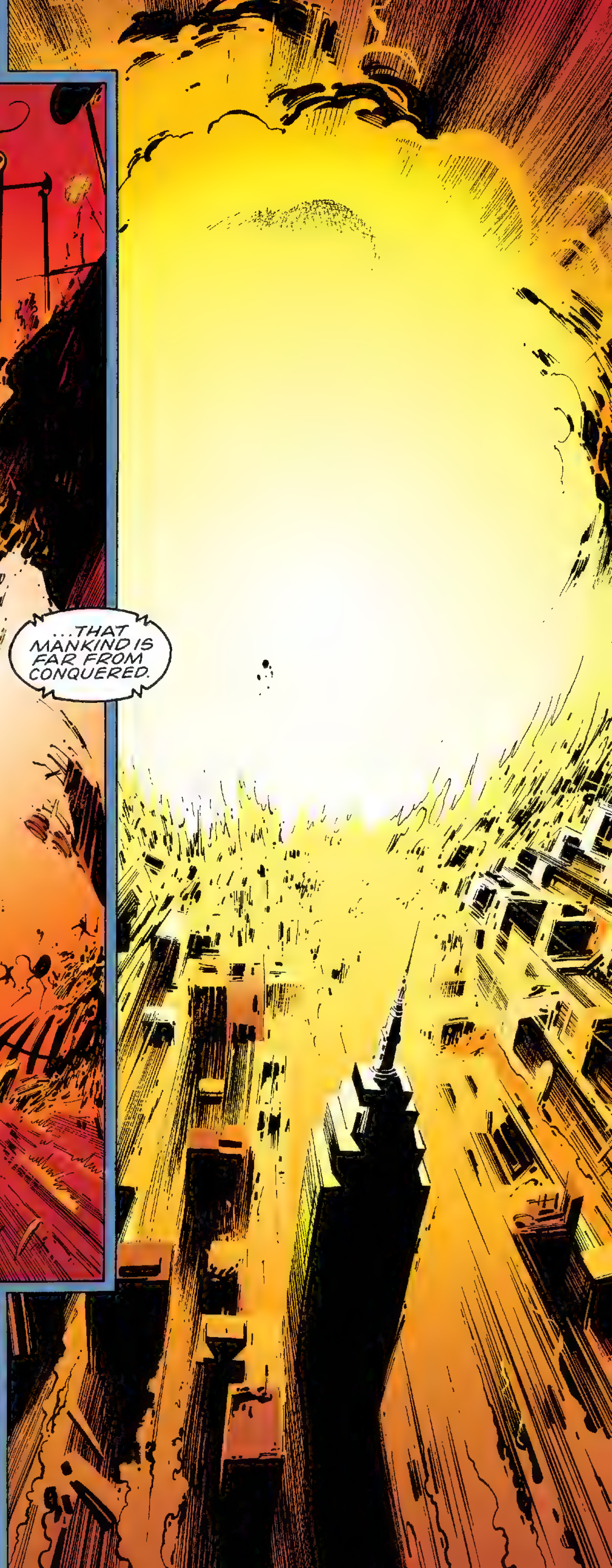




...TO
SHOW OUR
MARTIAN
MASTERS...



...THAT
MANKIND IS
FAR FROM
CONQUERED.



3 MARVO

THAT
ONE LITTLE
MAN KILLED
A LOT OF
MARTIANS.

HE DIED
WELL.

I HATE THE
MARTIANS! THEY
KILLED MY MOM
AND GRAMPS. HE
WASN'T MY REAL
GRAMPS...

...BUT MOM
SAID I COULD
CALL HIM GRAMPS
BECAUSE MY REAL
GRANDPARENTS
WERE DEAD...

STOP
WHINING,
BRAT.

AND I
LOVED THEM
BOTH... AND
THEY'RE DEAD.
BUT I WILL
AVENGE THEM,
I SWEAR...

I SAID
SHUT YOUR
SNIVELLING...

HAWK!
HE IS IN MY
CARE NOW.

RAISE A HAND
TO HIM AND YOU
CHALLENGE ME!
UNDERSTAND?

NO, I DON'T...
BUT I'M NOT
CHALLENGING
YOU...

...IT'S JUST
THAT WE DON'T
NEED A WAILING
BRAT. HE'S A USELESS
BURDEN. WE HAVE
MORE THAN ENOUGH
PROBLEMS AS IT
IS--

MORE
THAN YOU
KNOW.



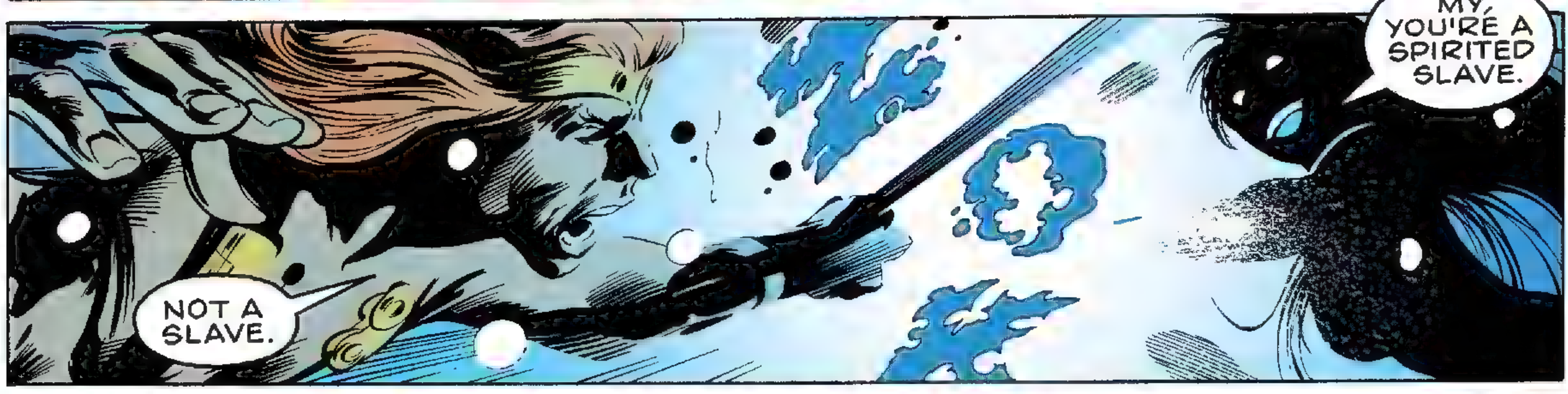
HI. I'M
MINT JULEP, A
BOUNTY HUNTER...
AND YOU ARE MY
PRISONERS.

I DON'T
THINK SO.

I KNEW
YOU WERE
GONNA SAY
THAT.



WIDE FIELD,
RAPID FIRE,
GUYS.



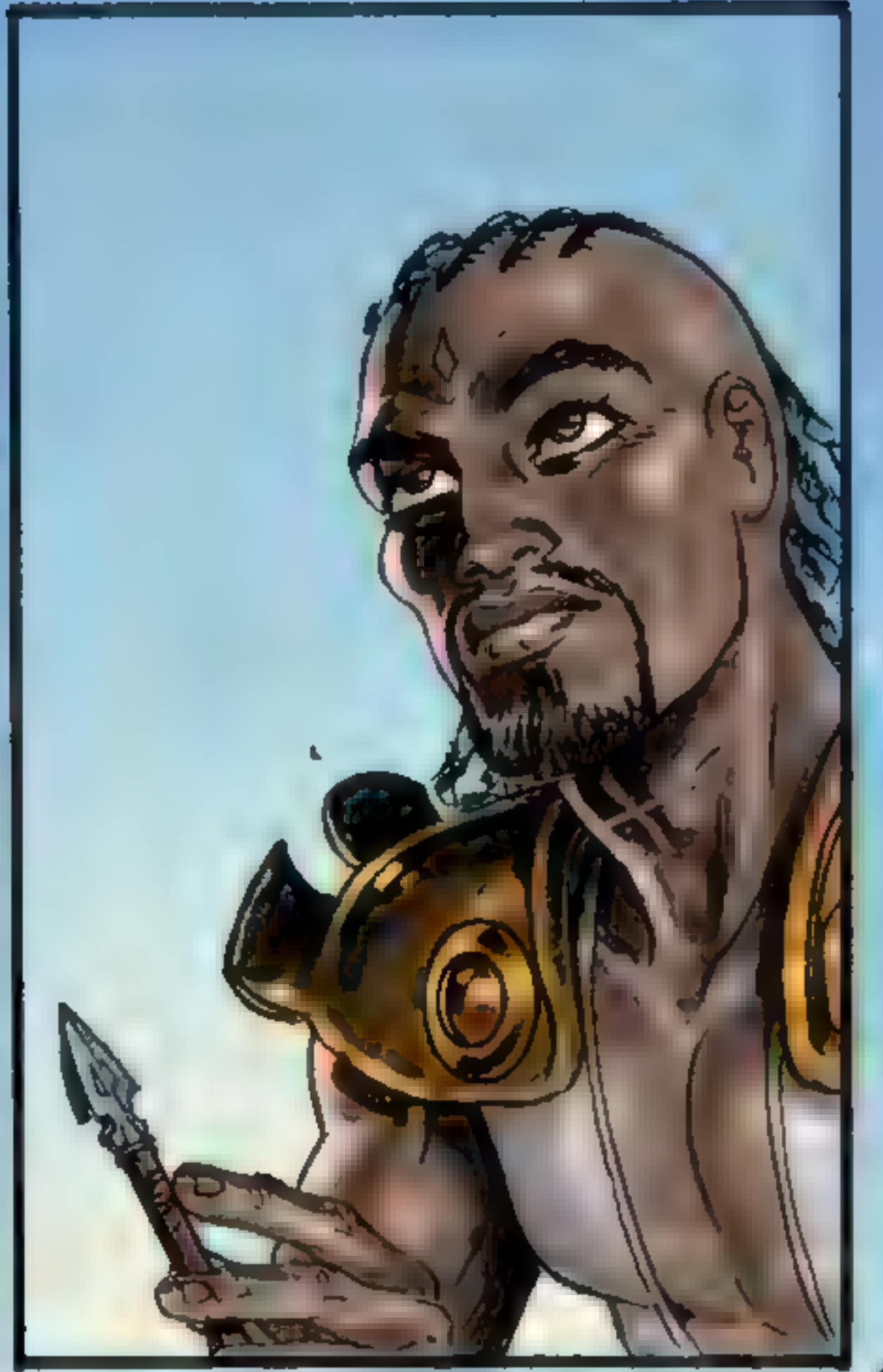
NOT A
SLAVE.

MY,
YOU'RE A
SPIRITED
SLAVE.



I AM FREE...

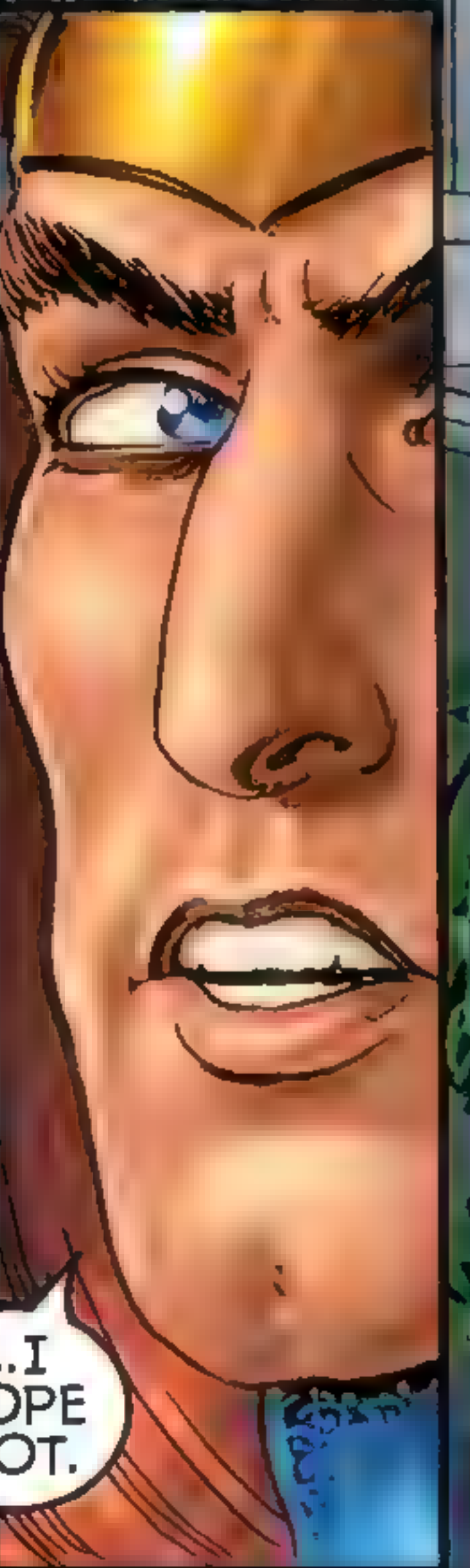
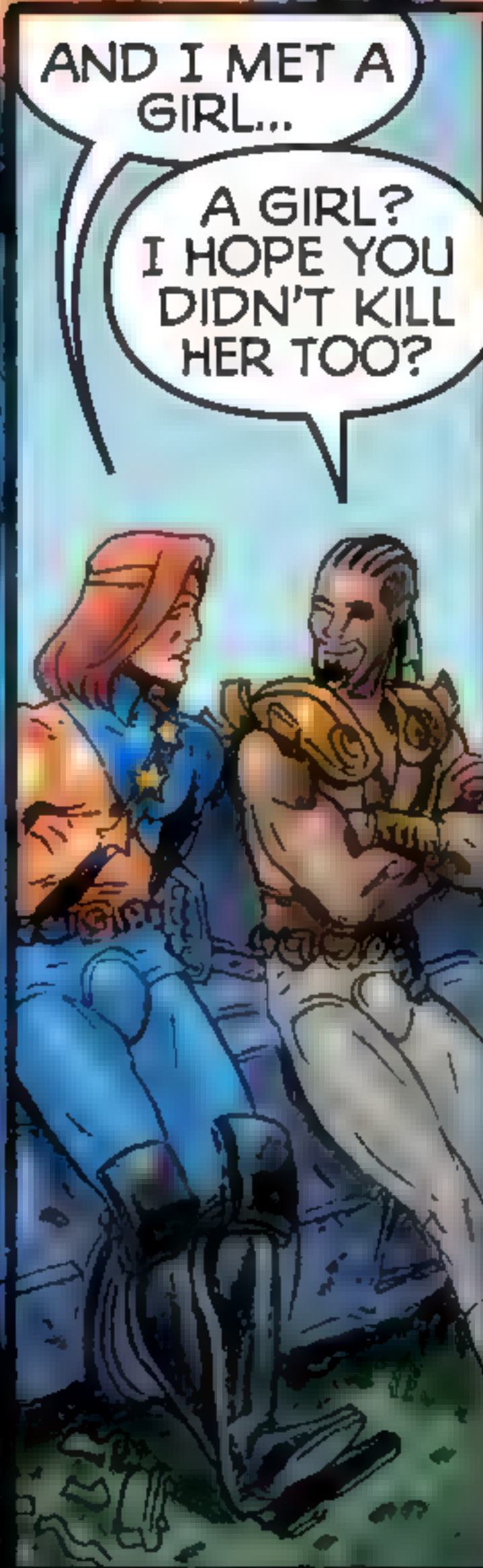
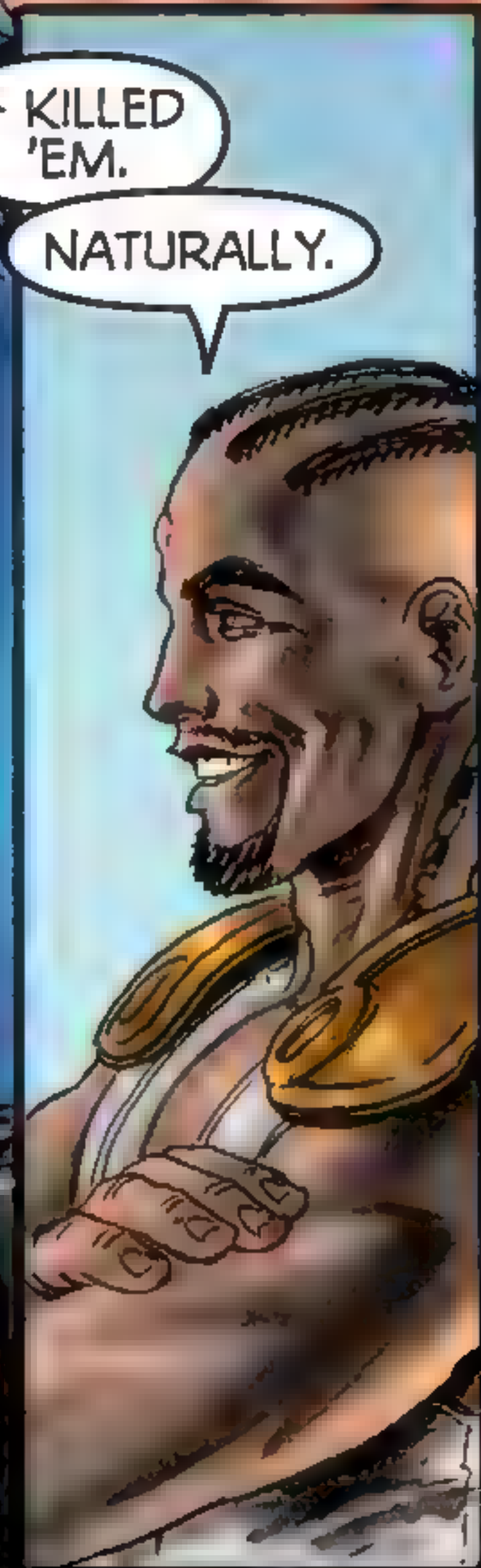
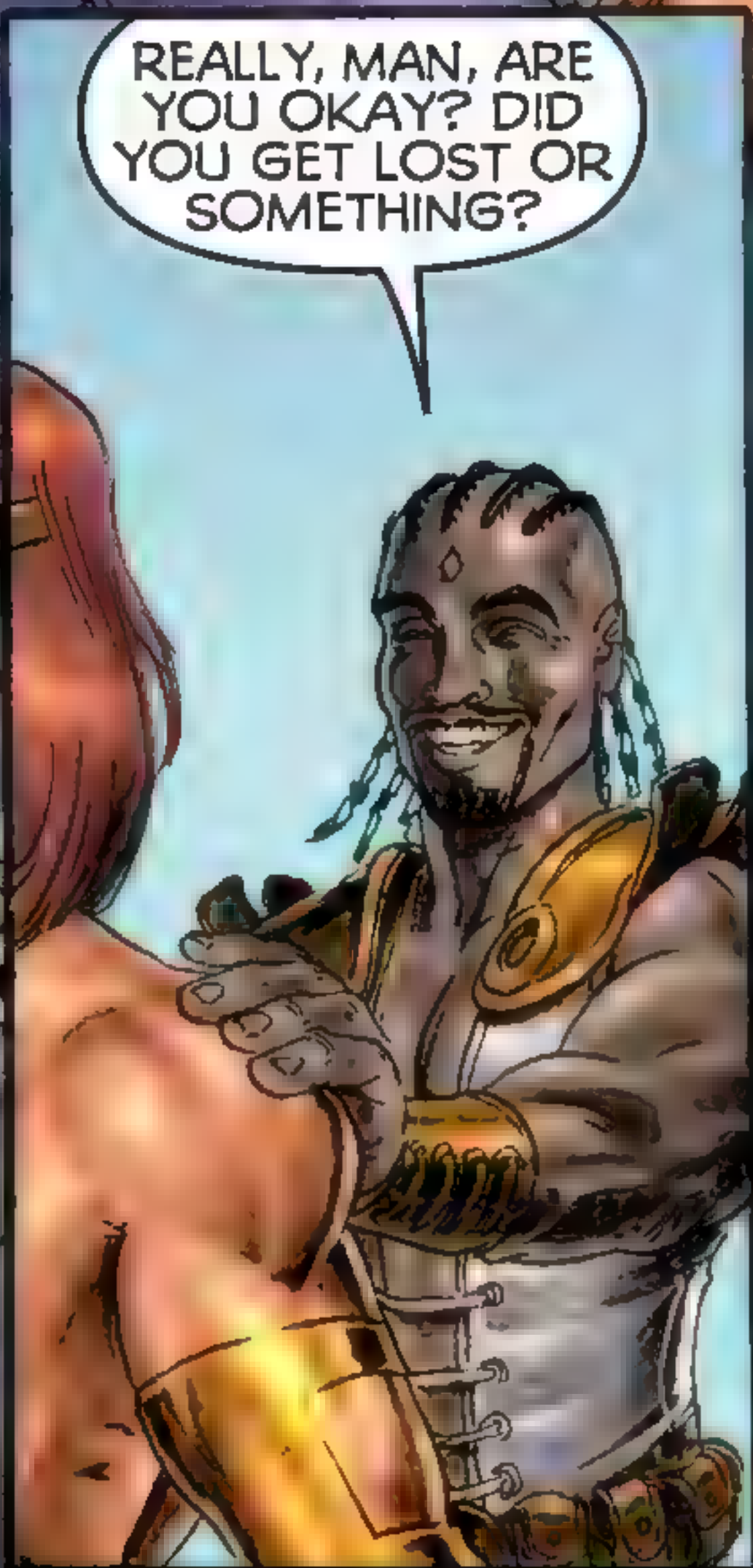
...FREE...



WHERE'VE
YOU BEEN?

OH, Y'KNOW --
OFF SAVING THE
UNIVERSE.

AGAIN?





BEING THIS CLOSE TO NEW YORK MAKES ME THINK OF MY MOTHER, WHICH ALWAYS LEAVES ME FEELING RESTLESS... SO YESTERDAY I SET OUT ON MY OWN TO DO A LITTLE HUNTING.

I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR DINNER. A RAT -- A RABBIT -- A DEER -- SOMETHING -- ANYTHING --

-- WHEN I NOTICED A TRIPOD...ALONE.

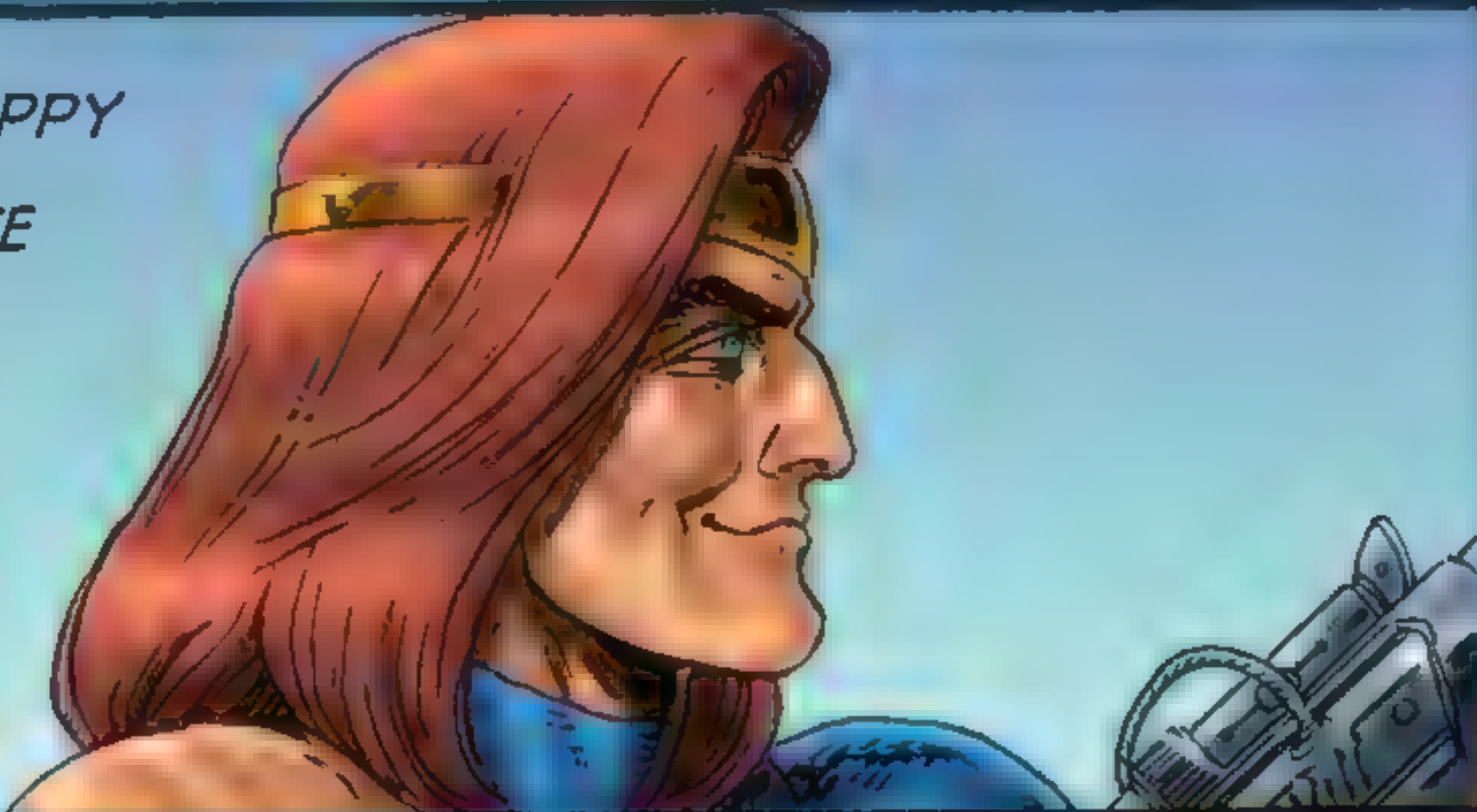
I HAD THAT REVERSE POLARITY RIFLE WE'D JUST FOUND WITH ME, SO I FIGURED I WOULD GIVE IT A LITTLE TEST RUN.



PROBABLY NOT THE SMARTEST MOVE -- SINCE WE KNOW THAT MARTIAN TRIPODS ALWAYS TRAVEL IN PACKS OF THREE -- BUT I SUPPOSE I LET MY BLOOD LUST GET THE BETTER OF ME.



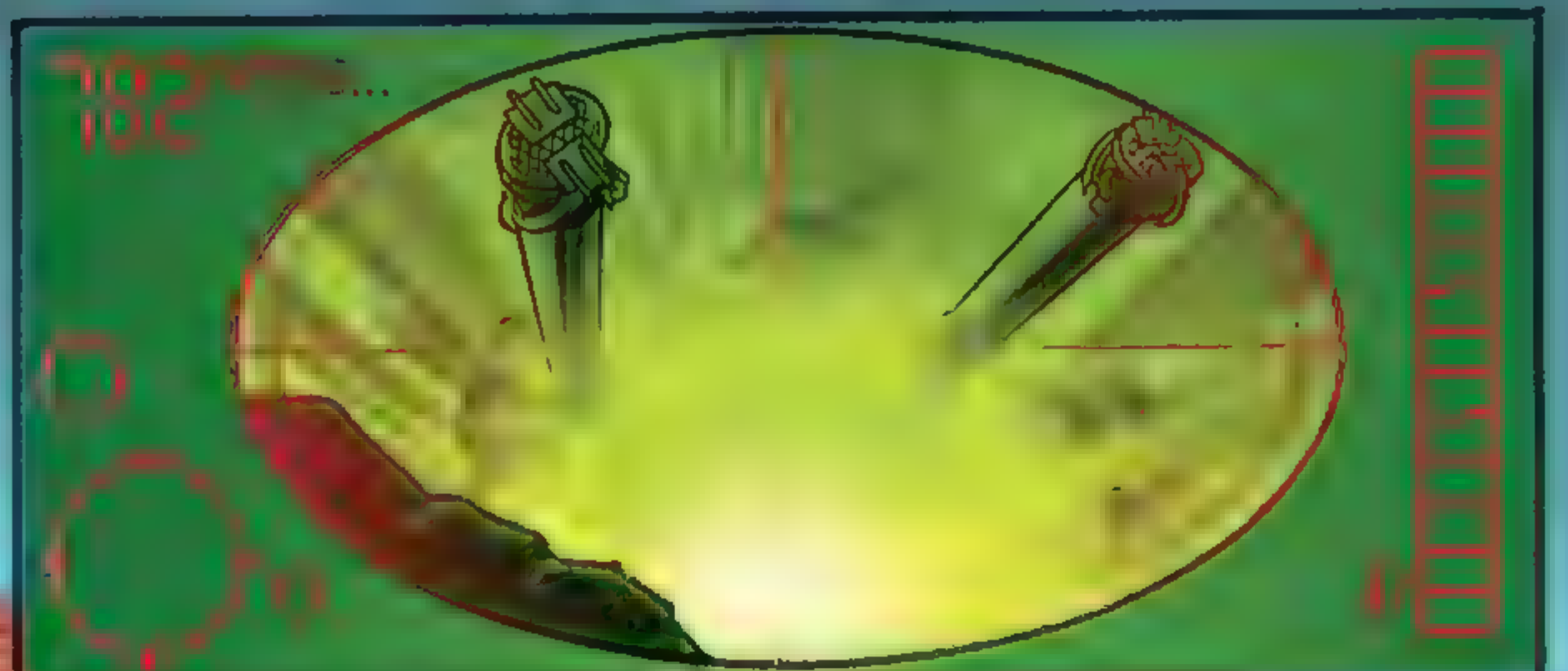
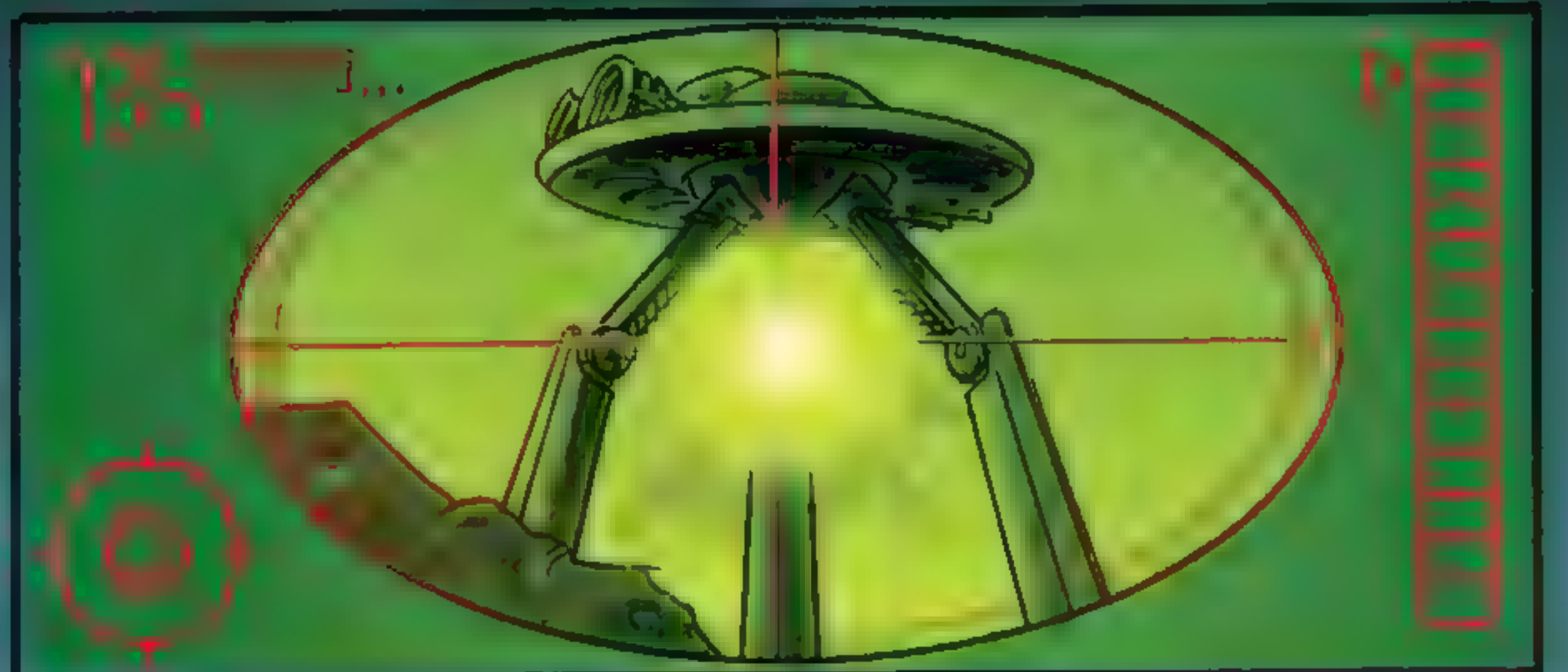
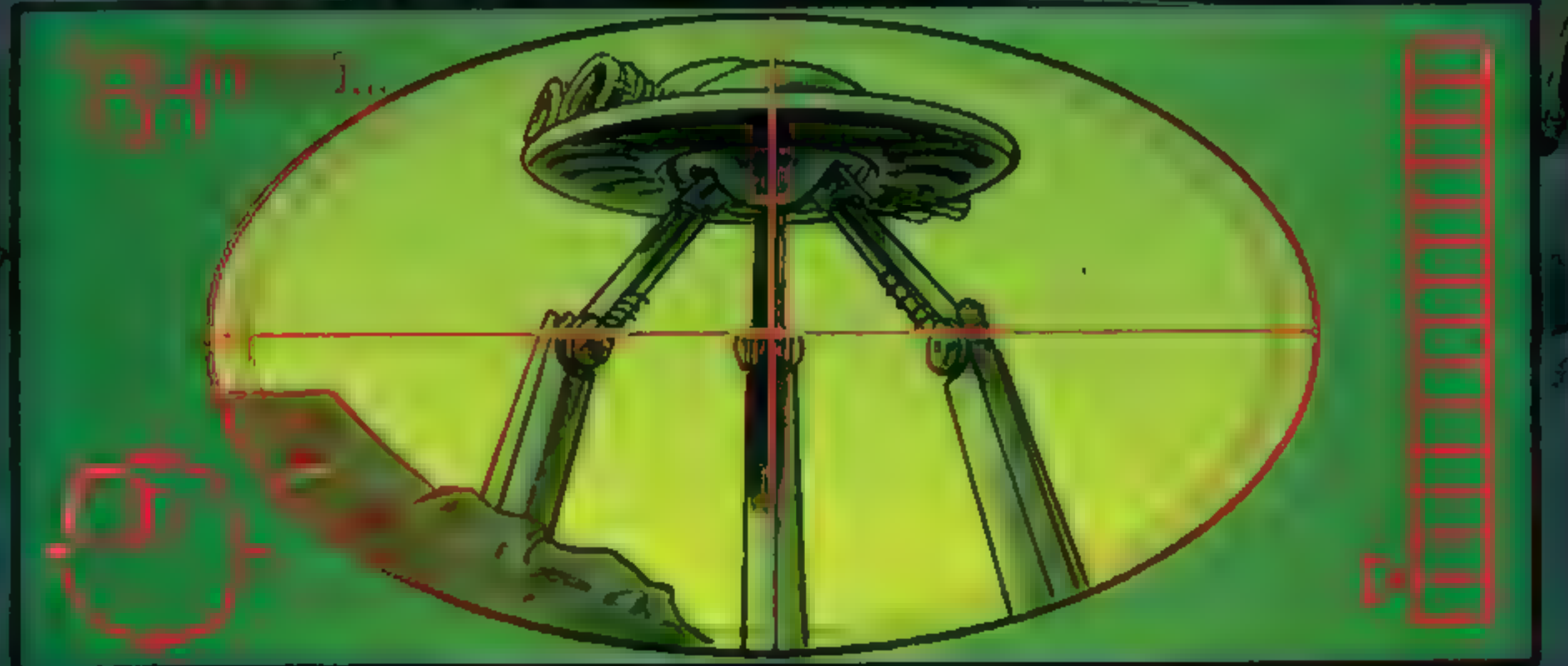
I WAS HAPPY WITH THE IMMEDIATE RESULTS.



HOWEVER --



-- EVERY NOW AND AGAIN YOU GET A GOOD LOOK AROUND YOU, EVERYTHING COMES INTO PERFECT FOCUS, AND YOU REALIZE THAT YOU ARE NOT WHERE YOU WANT TO BE.



KILLAVEN 2020



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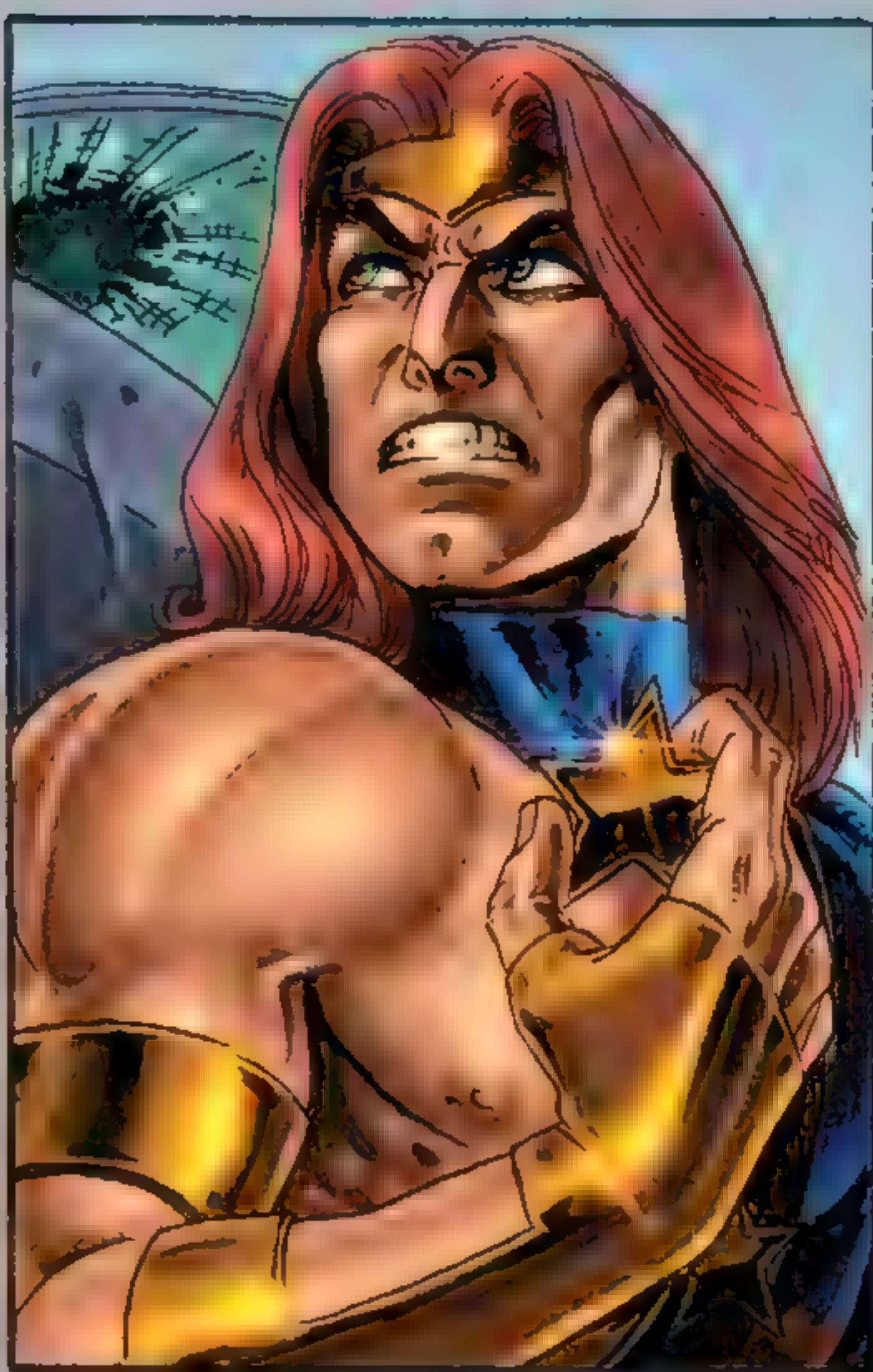
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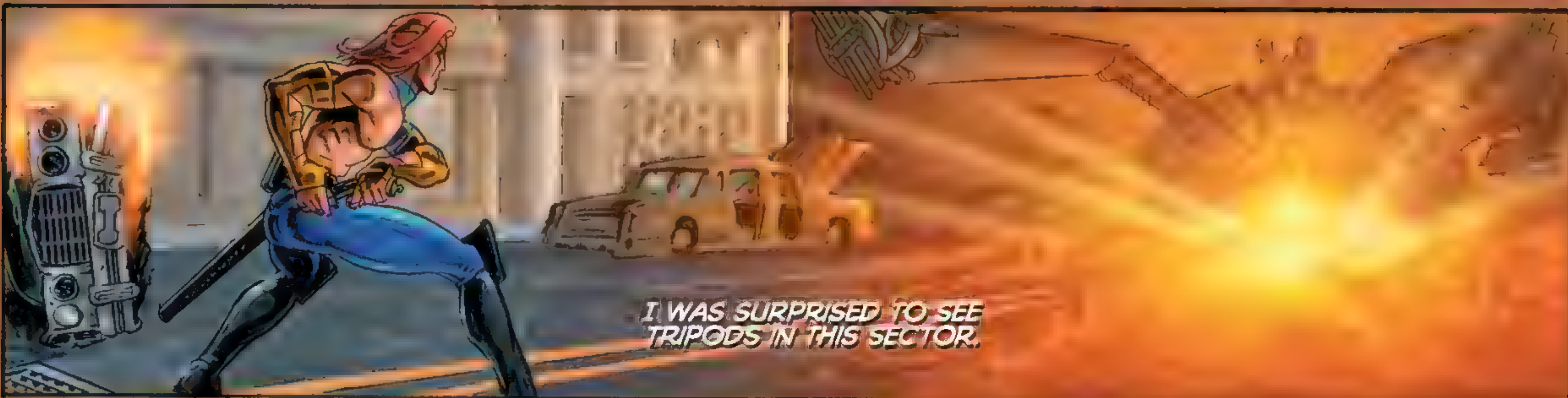
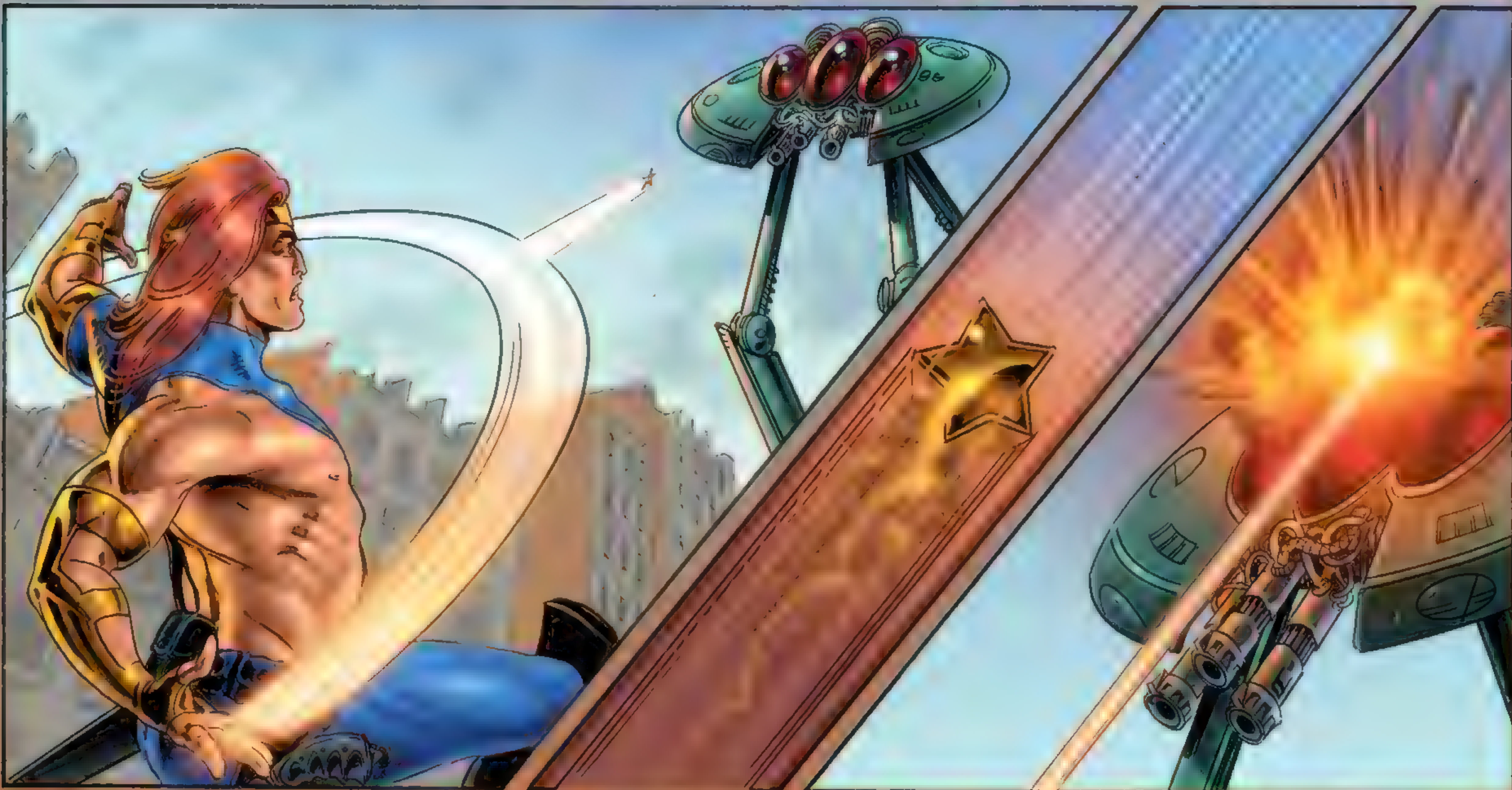
INVADED BY
JOE QUESADA



NOT THE
SMARTEST
OF MOVES --



-- BUT SOMETIMES I JUST
CAN'T HELP MYSELF.



I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE
TRIPODS IN THIS SECTOR.



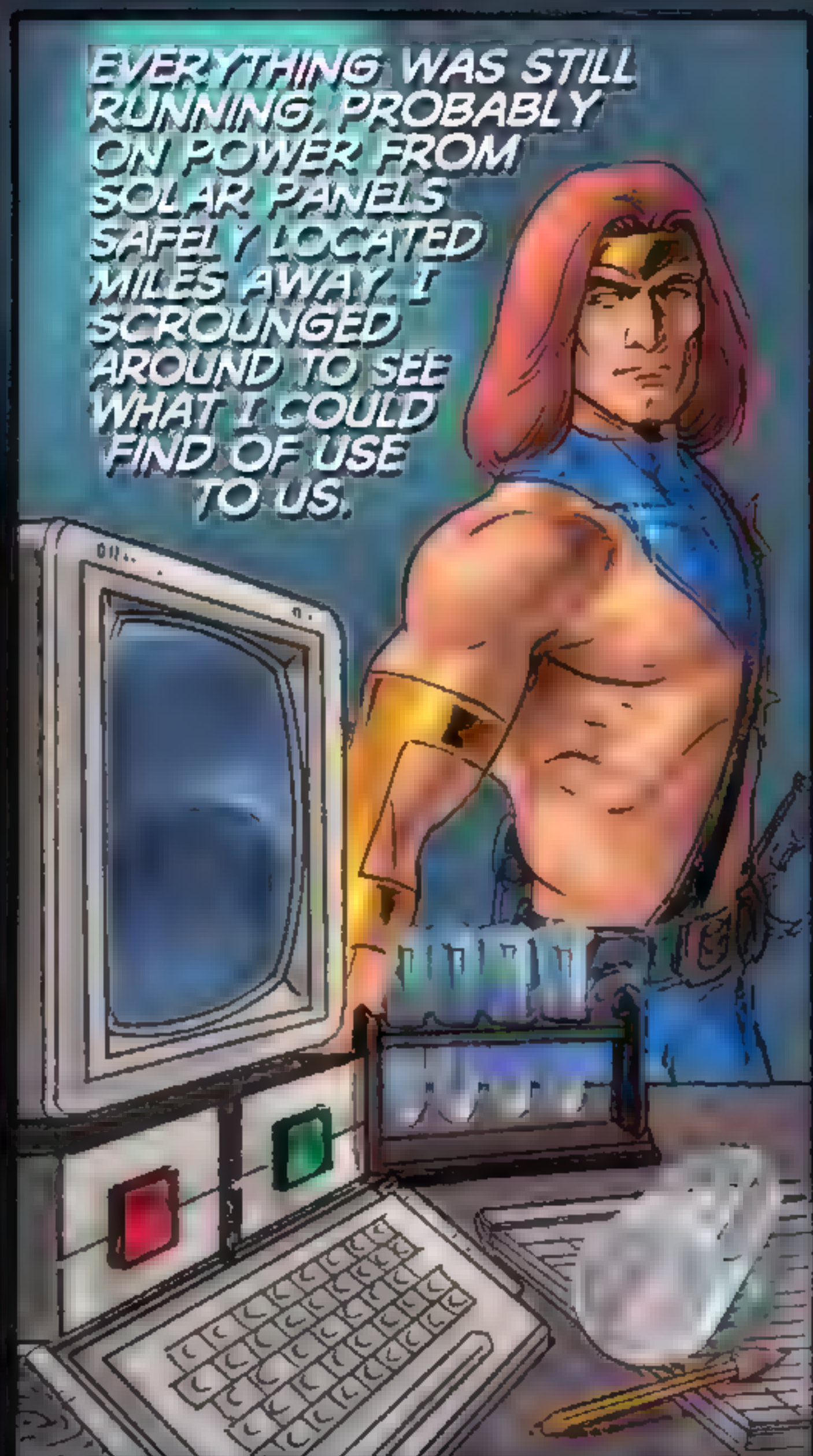
WE HAD LOOKED AROUND PRETTY
THOROUGHLY BEFORE WE PITCHED
CAMP, AND HADN'T FOUND ANY
RECENT INDICATIONS OF MARTIAN
ACTIVITY. WERE THESE SCOUTS, I
WONDERED? THERE COULD HAVE
BEEN A DOZEN MORE WAITING
RIGHT OVER THE NEXT HILL...



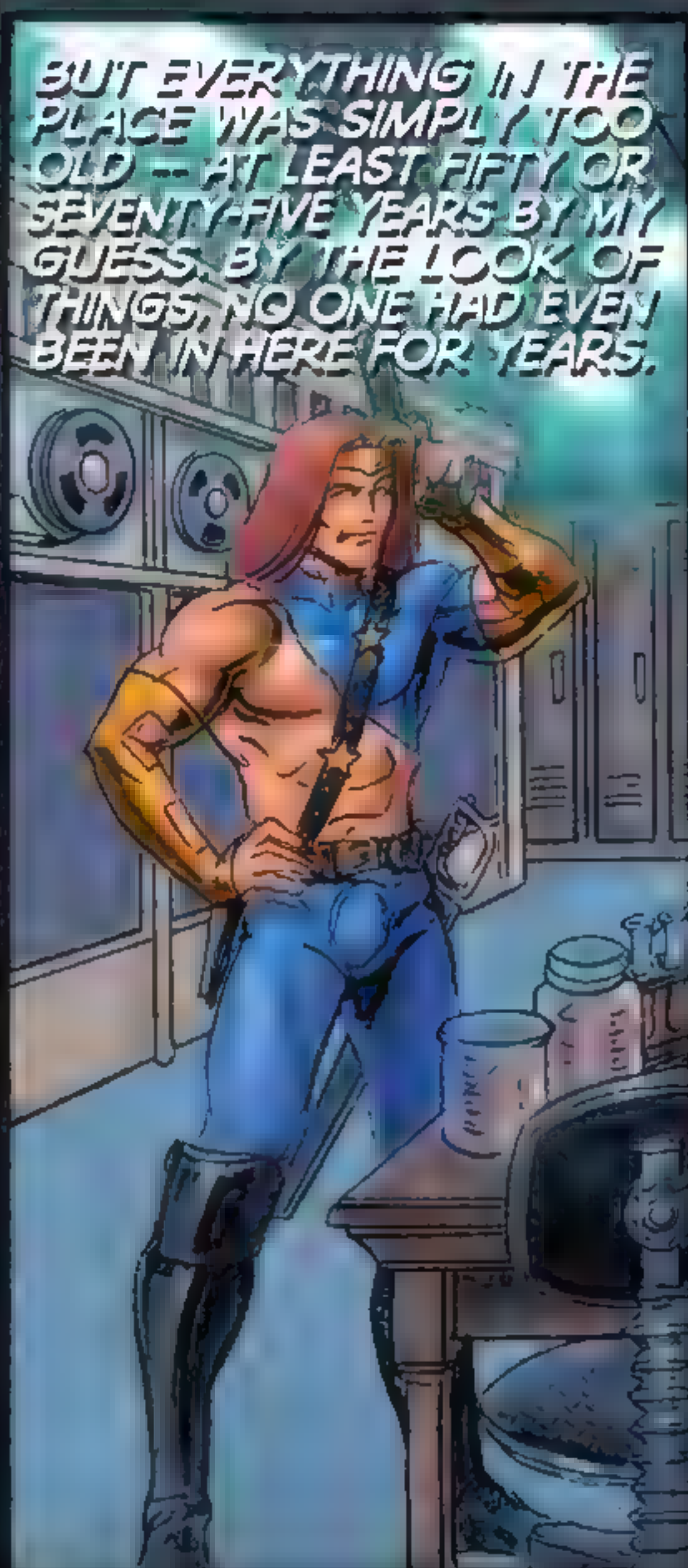
THAT SECOND TRIPOD
TOOK QUITE A SPILL --
STUMBLING ON ITS
WAY DOWN, IT TOOK OUT
A BUILDING AND TORE
UP HALF THE STREET.



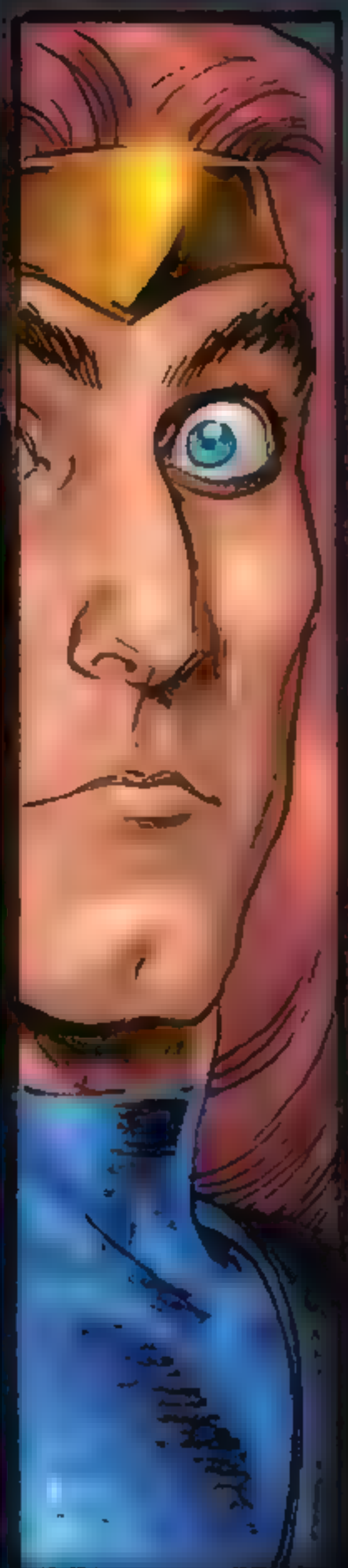
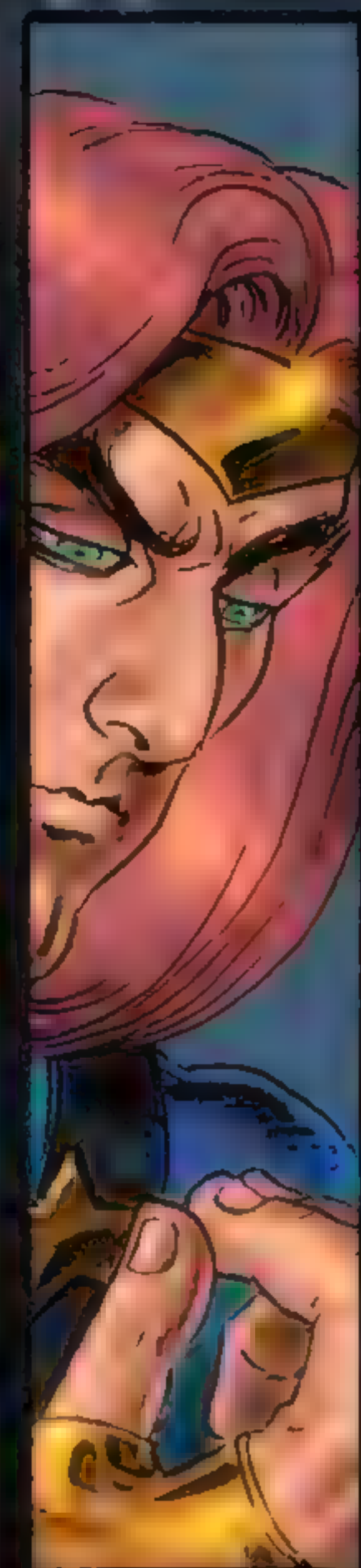
GOING OVER THE DEBRIS,
I WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED
TO FIND THAT THE TRIPOD HAD
EXPOSED SOME SORT OF
UNDERGROUND LABORATORY.
A LIVE, FULLY FUNCTIONING
LAB -- ITS CONTROLS NO
DOUBT PRESET ON AUTO.



EVERYTHING WAS STILL
RUNNING, PROBABLY
ON POWER FROM
SOLAR PANELS
SAFELY LOCATED
MILES AWAY. I
SCROUNGED
AROUND TO SEE
WHAT I COULD
FIND OF USE
TO US.



BUT EVERYTHING IN THE
PLACE WAS SIMPLY TOO
OLD -- AT LEAST FIFTY OR
SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS BY MY
GUESS. BY THE LOOK OF
THINGS, NO ONE HAD EVEN
BEEN IN HERE FOR YEARS.



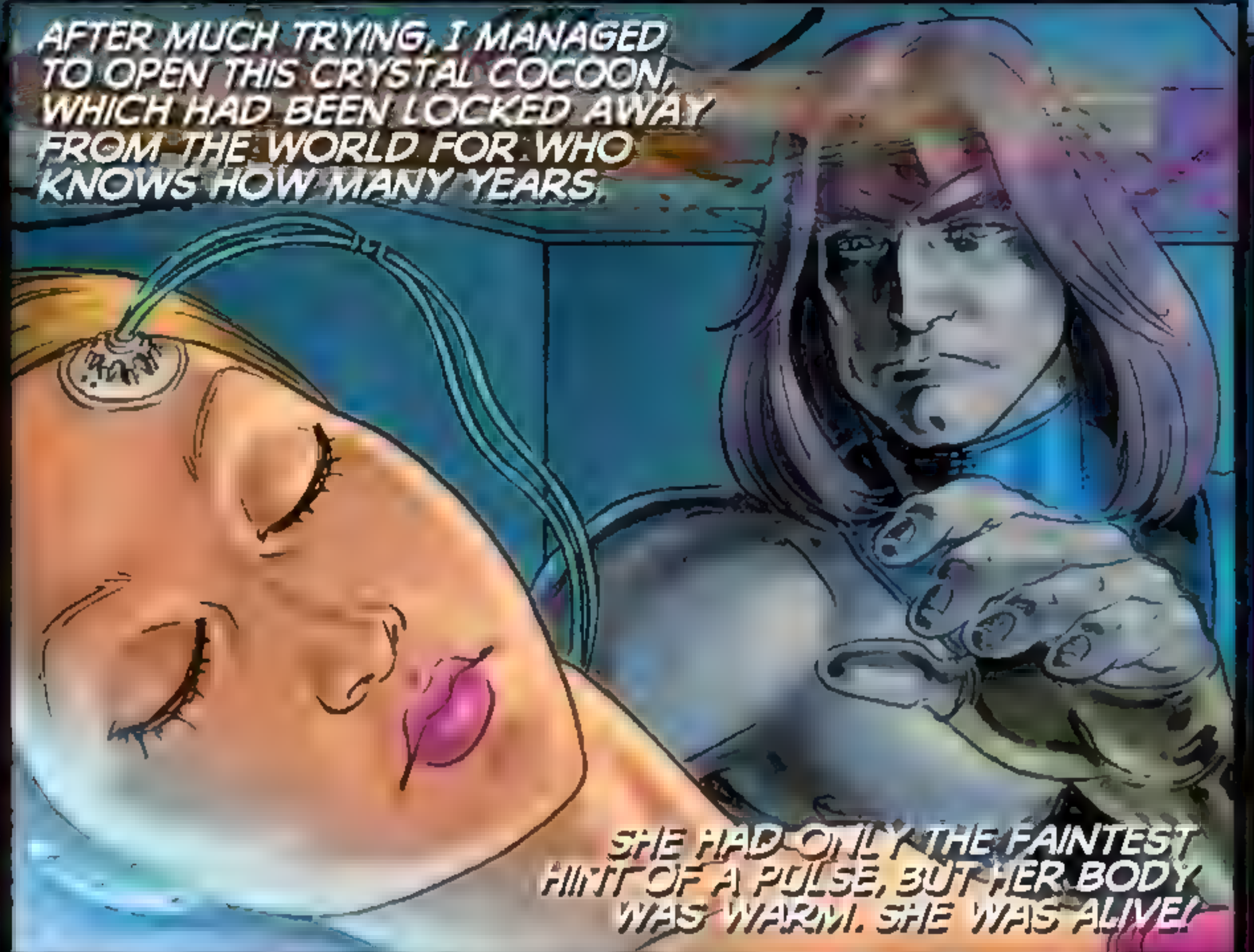


TWENTY-FIVE TUBES --
TWENTY-FIVE BODIES --
TWENTY-FOUR CORPSES --

THE BODY IN THE
LAST TUBE SEEMED
INTACT AND
UNDAMAGED...

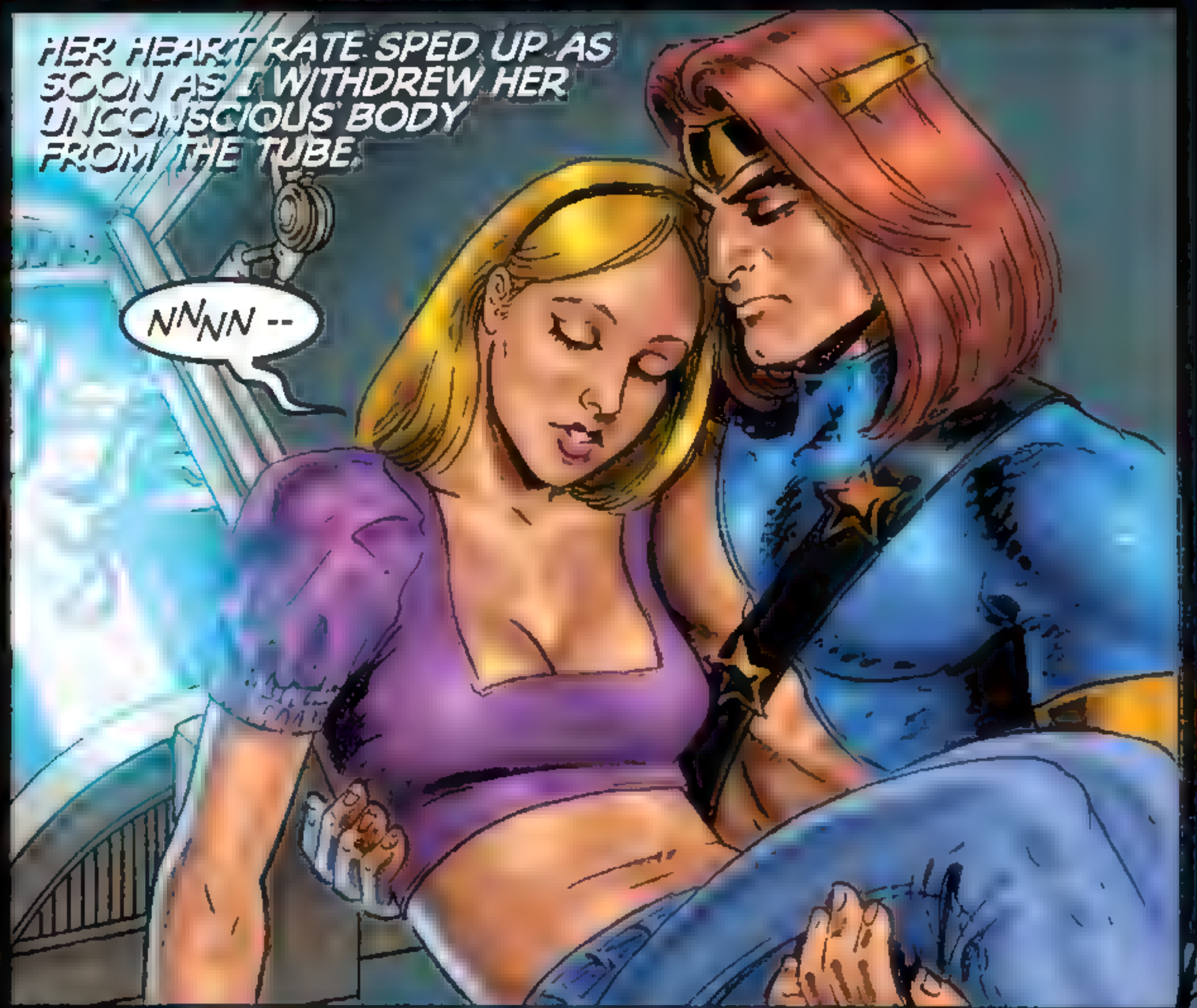


AFTER MUCH TRYING, I MANAGED
TO OPEN THIS CRYSTAL COCOON,
WHICH HAD BEEN LOCKED AWAY
FROM THE WORLD FOR WHO
KNOWS HOW MANY YEARS.



SHE HAD ONLY THE FAINTEST
HINT OF A PULSE, BUT HER BODY
WAS WARM. SHE WAS ALIVE!

HER HEART RATE SPED UP AS
SOON AS I WITHDREW HER
UNCONSCIOUS BODY
FROM THE TUBE.

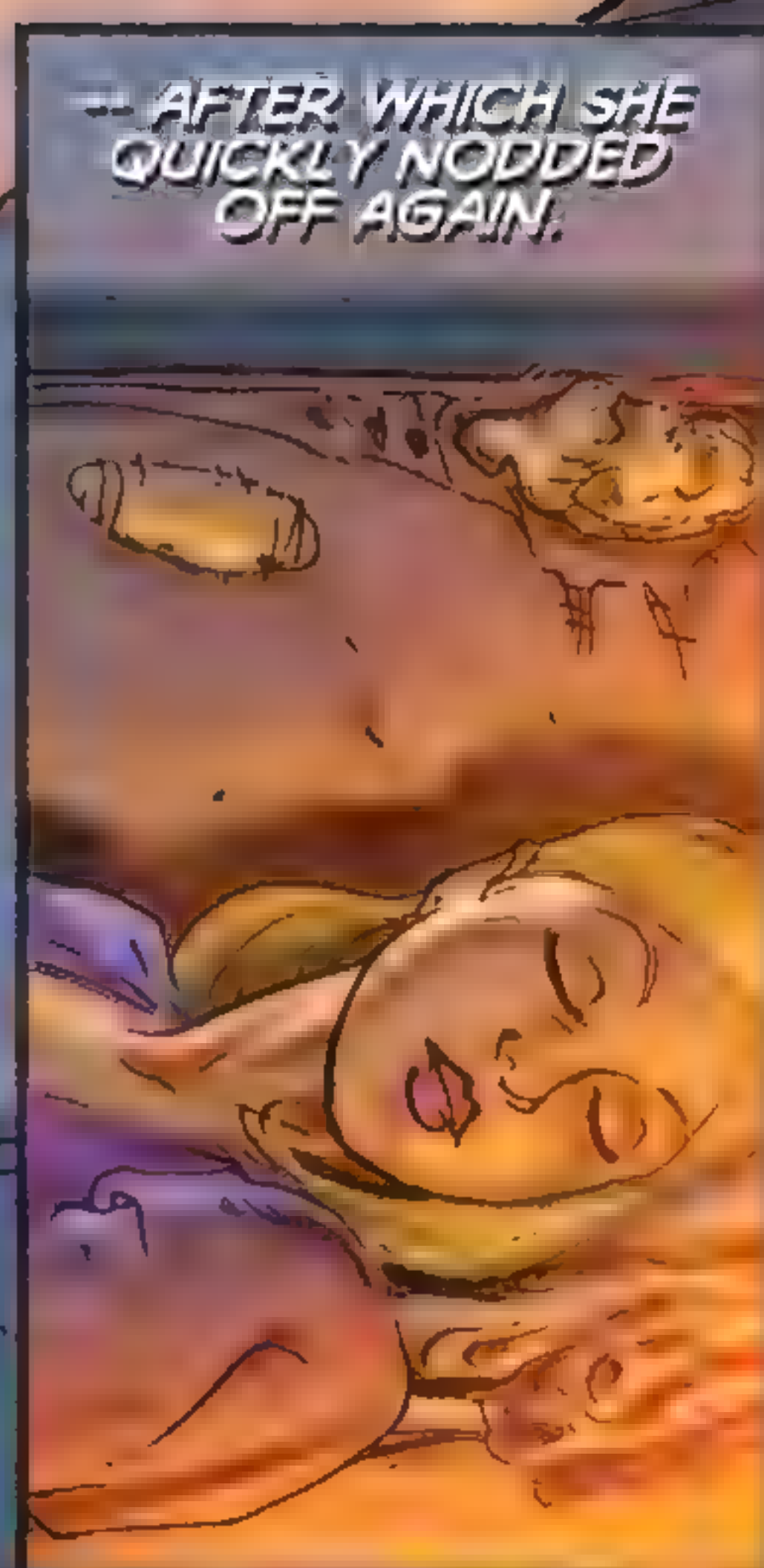


NNNN --



SHE WAS ALIVE. I HAD TO
GET US BOTH BACK TO
CAMP -- IN THAT DEAD END
LAB, WE WOULD BE NOTHING
MORE THAN SITTING DUCKS
ONCE THAT THIRD TRIPOD
FINALLY SHOWED UP.

I HAD STRAYED FURTHER FROM CAMP THAN I'D REMEMBERED. THE SUN WAS GOING DOWN, SO I FIGURED THAT THE SAFEST BET WOULD BE TO FIND SHELTER AND WAIT 'TIL MORNING BEFORE MOVING ON. WHEN SHE CAME TO, SHE TRIED TO SPEAK, BUT HER BODY HAD REMAINED SILENT FOR TOO LONG. I GAVE HER SOME WATER TO REHYDRATE HER SYSTEM --



-- AFTER WHICH SHE QUICKLY NODDED OFF AGAIN.

I WAS SCANNING THE HORIZON FOR THE ATTACK THAT I KNEW THE CAMPFIRE MIGHT BRING WHEN I FIRST HEARD HER VOICE...



WHAT YEAR IS IT?

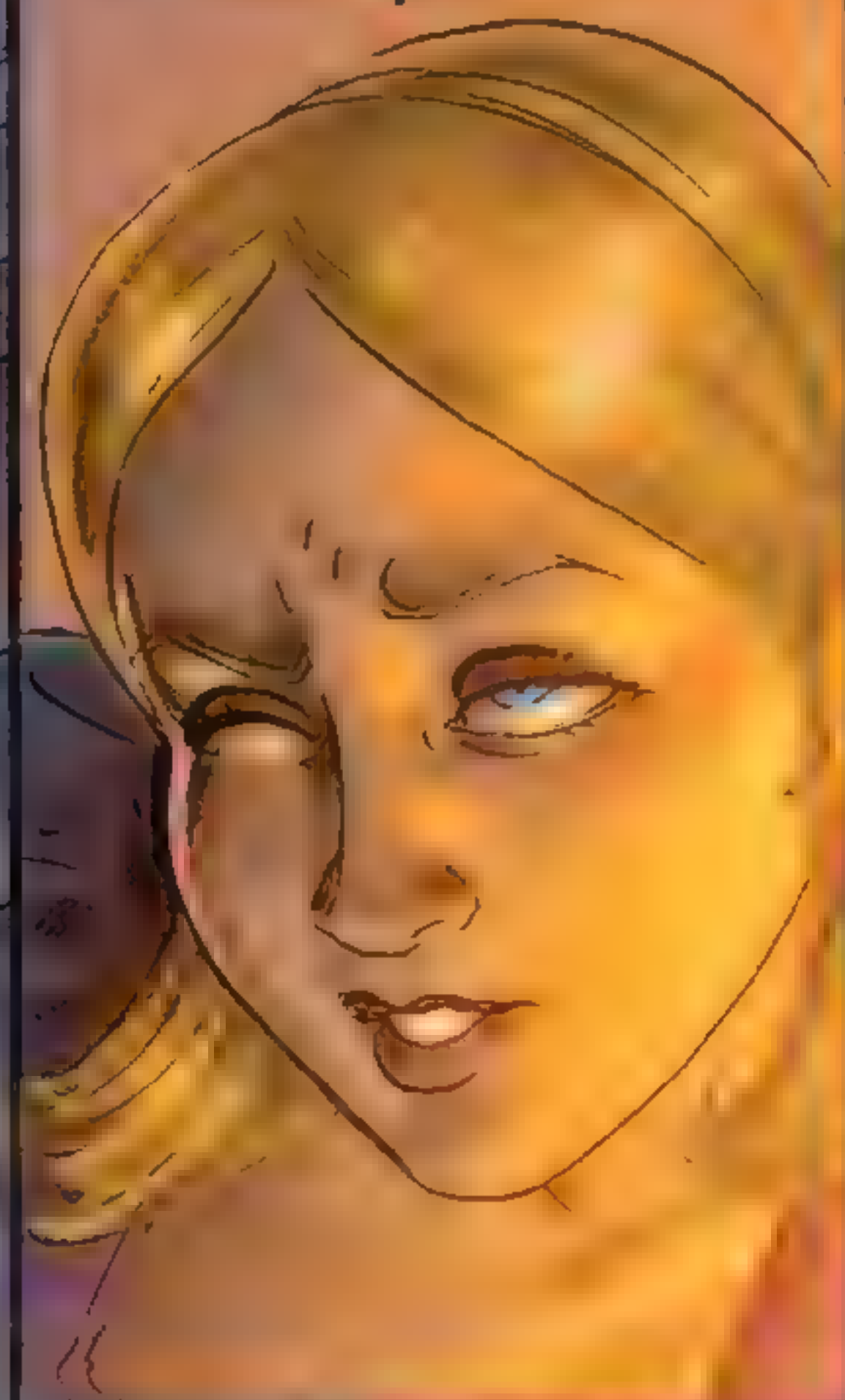
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

THE DATE --

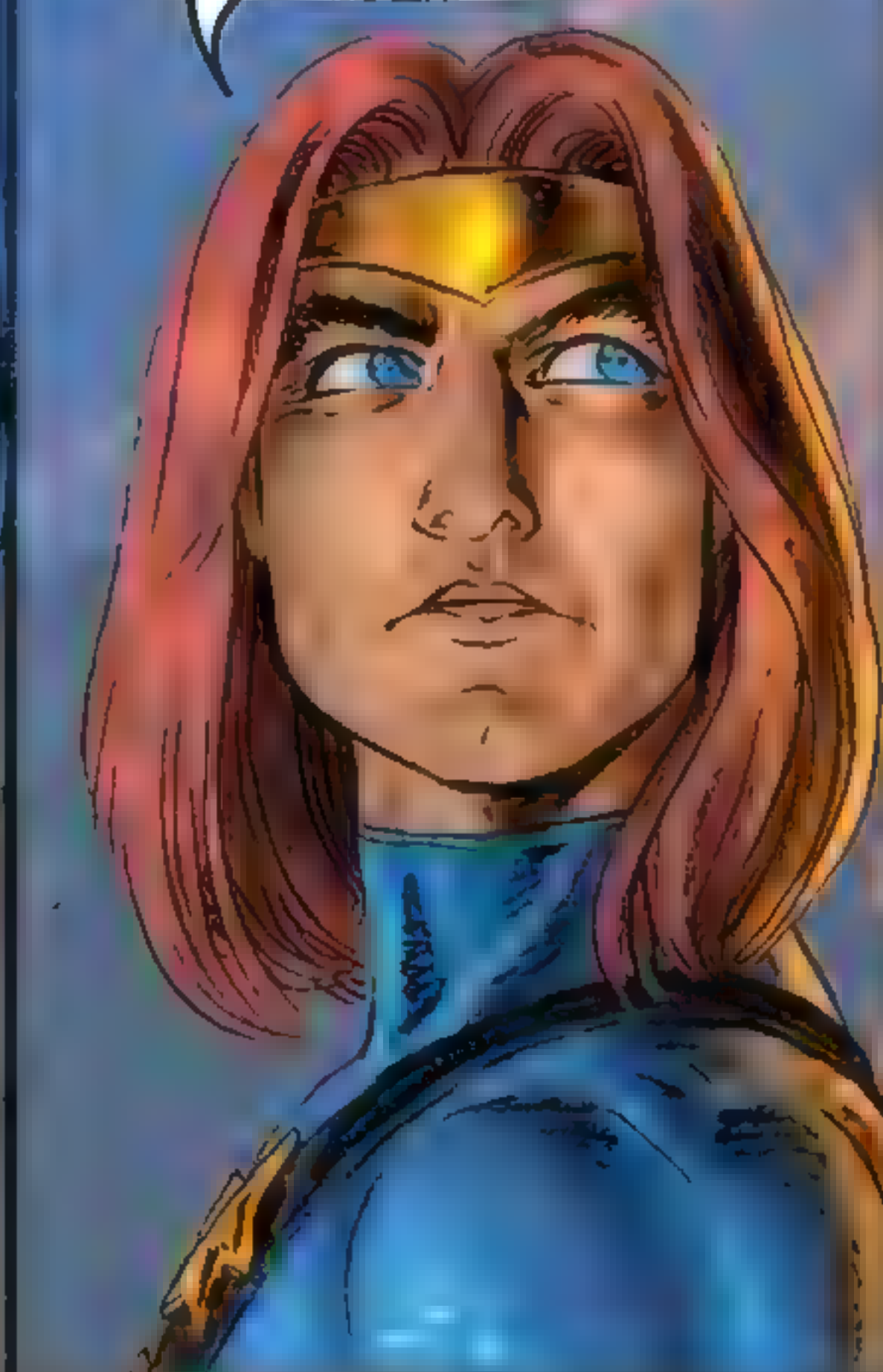
IT'S MAY, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY.



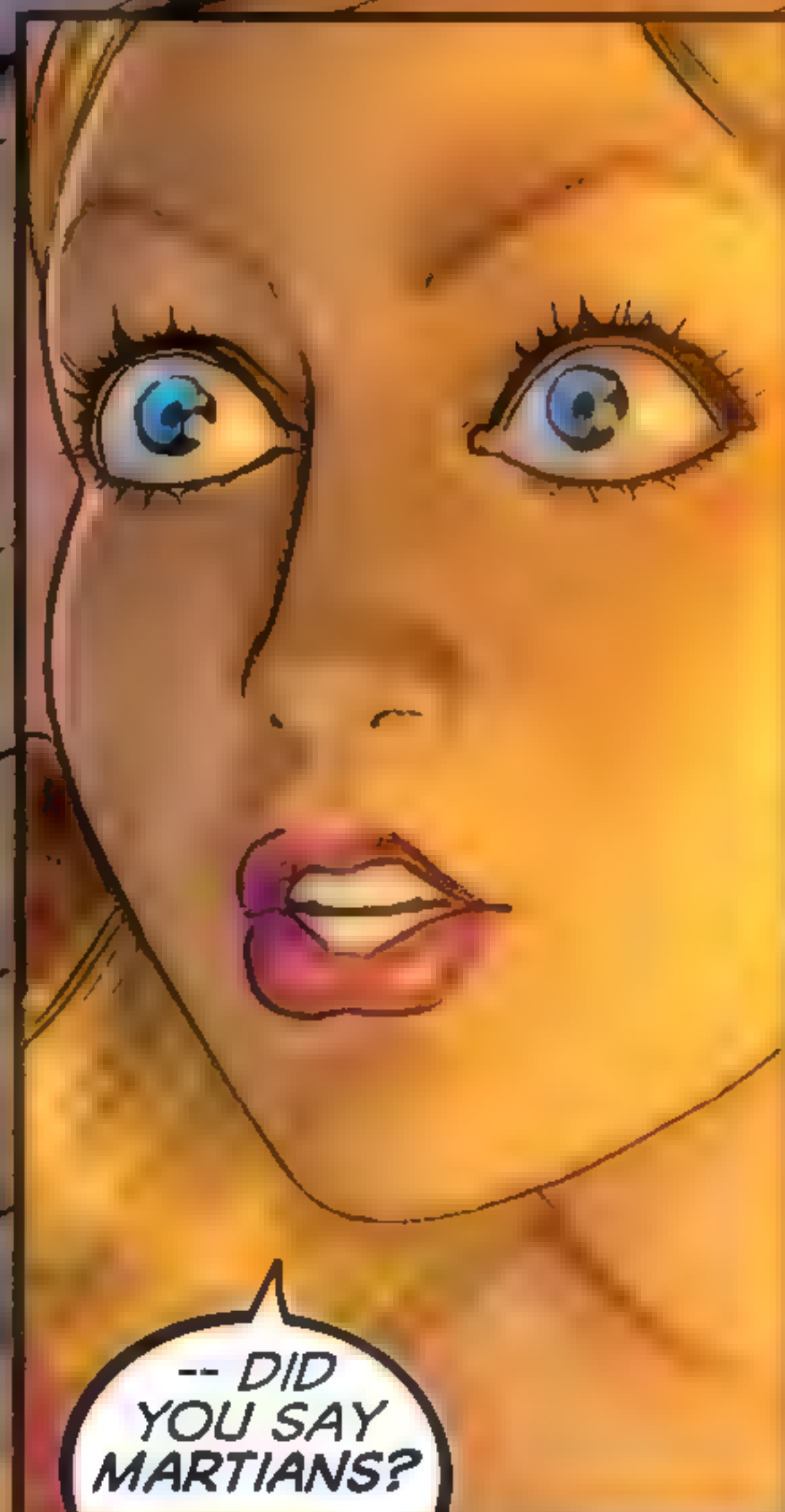
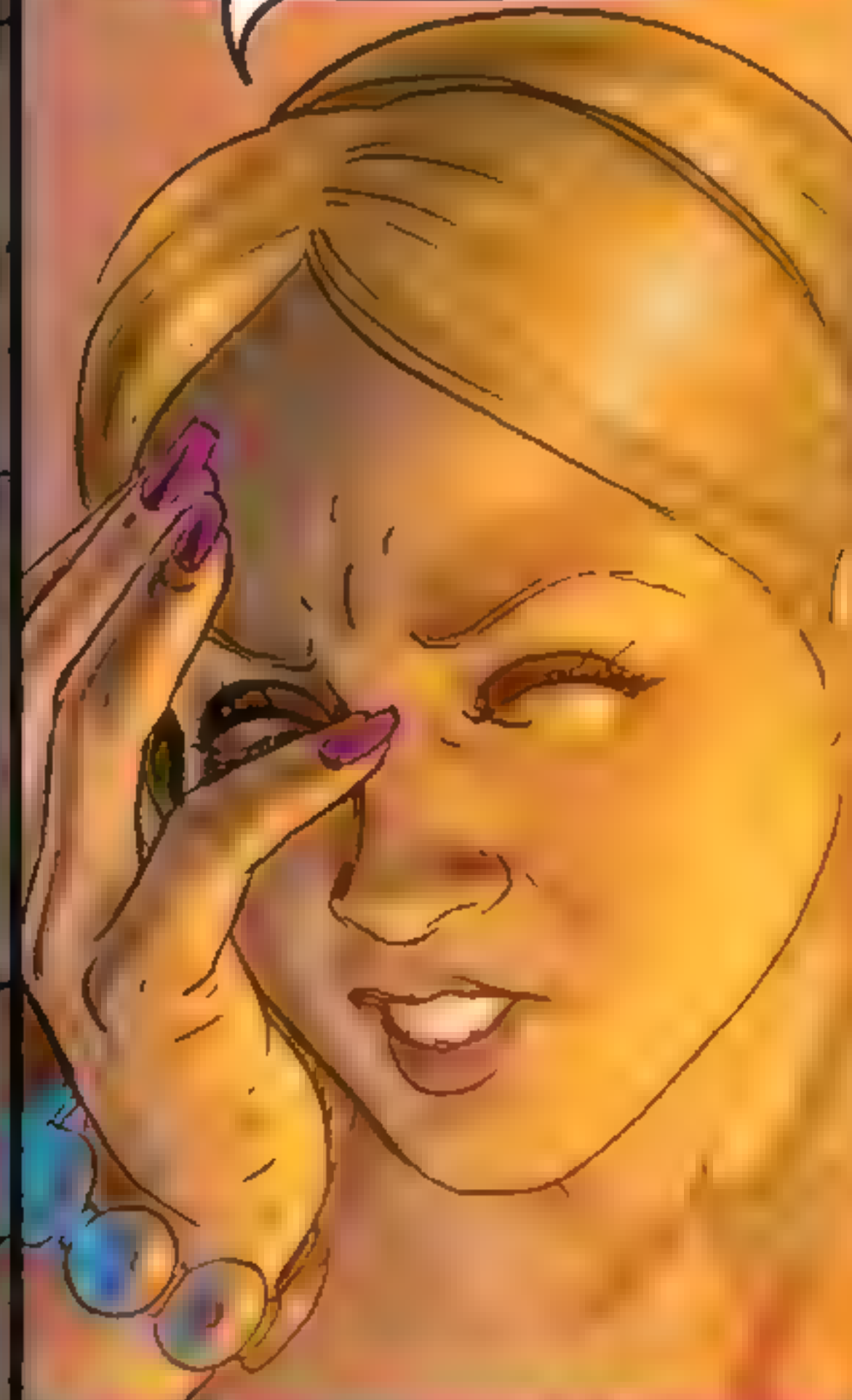
WHAT?! 2020?! IT SHOULD BE 2001!



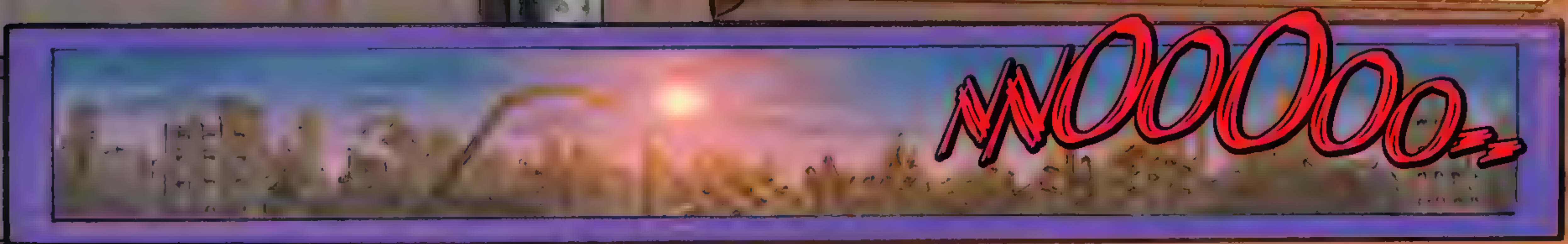
2001? THAT'S WHEN THE MARTIANS LANDED. HOW LONG WERE YOU IN THAT TUBE?



DID YOU REALLY SAY 2020? WE OVERSLEPT? NO -- IT CAN'T BE -- WAIT --



-- DID YOU SAY MARTIANS?



WHERE ARE THE OTHERS? DID THEY...

THE LOOK IN MY EYES TOLD HER THE SAD TRUTH.

WE -- I WAS ANGRY AND UPSET AT THE STATE OF MY WORLD AND DECIDED TO TAKE MATTERS INTO MY OWN HANDS.

WHY WERE YOU IN THAT TUBE?

I WENT INTO THAT TUBE ON JULY 4TH, 1976 -- AFTER WATERGATE, VIETNAM AND A BICENTENNIAL THAT CELEBRATED 200 YEARS OF AMERICAN HYPOCRISY, WE FIGURED THAT THINGS WERE ONLY GONNA GET WORSE UNLESS SOMEONE TOOK A STAND AND DID THEIR BEST TO MOVE AMERICA TOWARDS TRUTH.

HELL, IN '76, WE HAD GERALD FORD, A MEMBER OF THE FRIGGIN' WARREN COMMISSION, IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

THEY DID THEIR BEST TO BURY KENNEDY'S DREAMS ALONG WITH HIS BODY...

...BUT WE WERE GONNA WAKE AMERICA UP TO THE FACT THAT IT HAD BLOOD ON ITS HANDS -- INNOCENT BLOOD -- AND THINGS HAD TO CHANGE.

KENNEDY -- I KNOW THAT NAME.

THANK GOD FOR THAT...

PROFESSOR CARROLL'S PLAN WAS TO GATHER TWENTY-FIVE OF US, HIS STUDENTS AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, AND TOGETHER WE WOULD GO INTO THESE HIBERNATION TUBES THAT THE UNIVERSITY HAD BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH. AS A GESTURE OF PROTEST, WE WOULD GIVE THE WORLD TWENTY-FIVE YEARS TO GET ITS ACT TOGETHER... OR ELSE.



SO... YOU FIGHT THE "MARTIANS"?

YEAH -- WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT.

THE GROUP OF WARRIORS I LEAD, THE FREEMEN, ARE FIGHTING TO LIBERATE OUR HOMEWORLD, OUR MOTHER EARTH.

I'VE BEEN FIGHTING THE MARTIANS MY WHOLE LIFE, AND I'M NOT GOING TO REST UNTIL I TAKE THIS WAR TO THEIR PLANET...

...UNTIL MARS IS SOAKED WITH BLOOD.

WHAT'LL THAT PROVE? WHY DON'T YOU JUST GET THEM OFF EARTH AND BE HAPPY WITH THAT?

HEY, EARTH IS PRESENTLY UNDER THEIR CONTROL -- ENSLAVED.

THE ONLY LIFE I KNEW GROWING UP WAS THAT OF A SLAVE!

HAVE YOU TRIED NEGOTIATING WITH THEM? THEY MUST BE INTELLIGENT IF THEY CAN GET HERE FROM MARS --

YOU CAN'T NEGOTIATE WITH MARTIANS!

THEY HAVE NO FEELINGS! TO THEM WE ARE AS EXPENDABLE AS CATTLE!

CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT LIVING UNDER THE THREAT OF SLAUGHTER FEELS LIKE?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I TRIED TO IMAGINE THAT ONCE... IT'S WHAT MADE ME BECOME A VEGETARIAN.



LOOK --
MARS
TOOK OVER
WHEN I WAS
A CHILD.



THEY PUT A LEASH ON
ME, TREATED ME LIKE
A WILD DOG.



THEY EXPERIMENTED ON
ME, CUT OPEN MY MIND --



-- AND THEN, JUST FOR
THEIR INFERNAL AMUSEMENT,
THREW ME INTO AN ARENA
TO EITHER DIE OR FIGHT MY
WAY OUT. I WAS FORCED
TO KILL OTHER ENSLAVED
BOYS WHO HAD BECOME
MY FRIENDS...

"KILLRAVEN" IS
THE NAME I
EARNED THERE.

THE WORLD OPENED
ITSELF UP FOR ME AND
REVEALED ITS TRUE
NATURE. IT WAS AS IF
MARS, THE ANCIENT
GOD OF WAR, HAD
REACHED DOWN AND
SQUEEZED ME IN HIS
MIGHTY FIST, TURNING
ME INTO A FIERCE,
SHINING DIAMOND
OF INTENT.



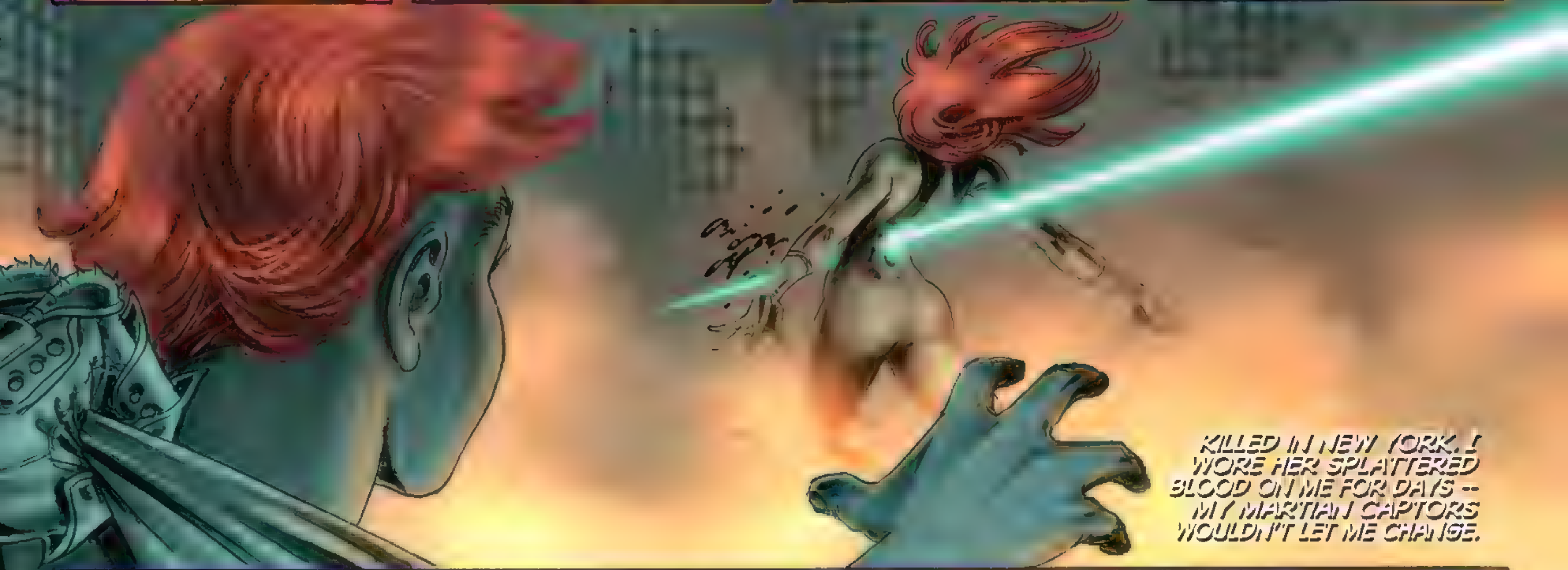
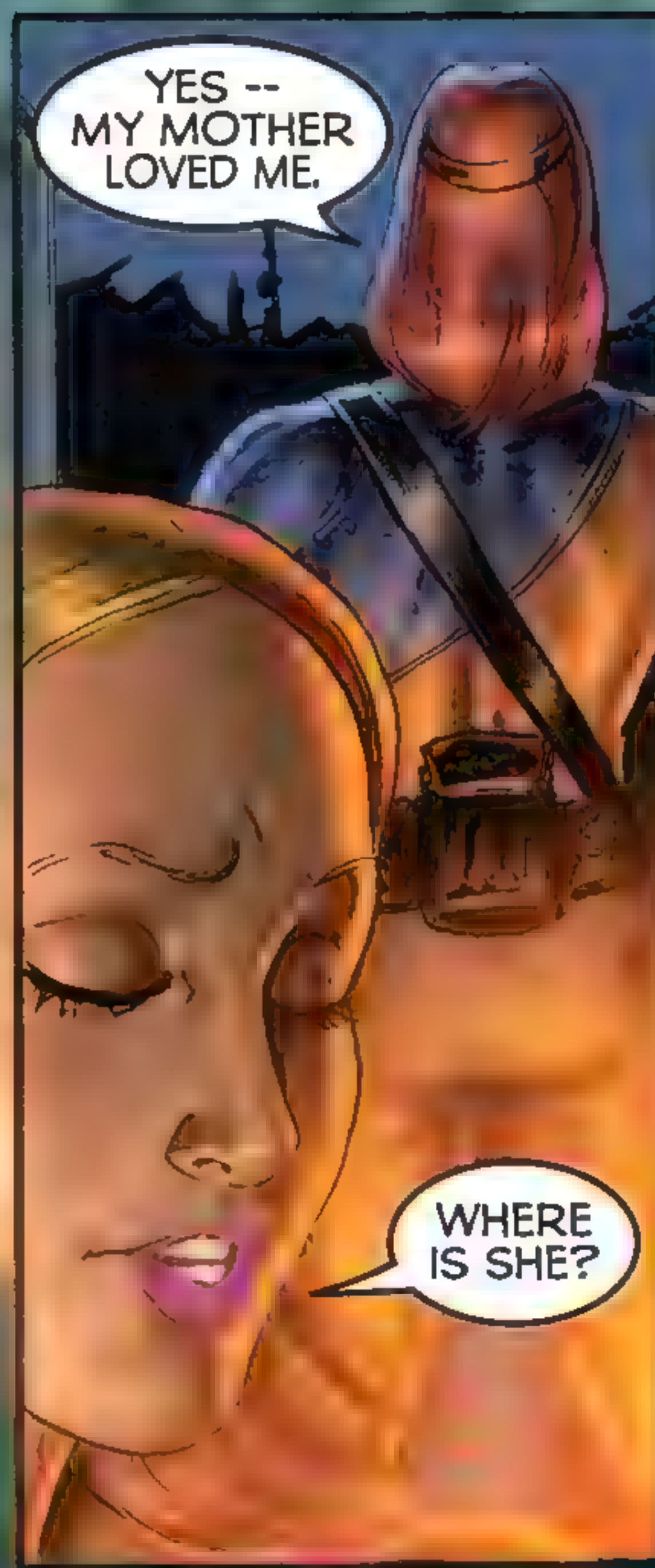
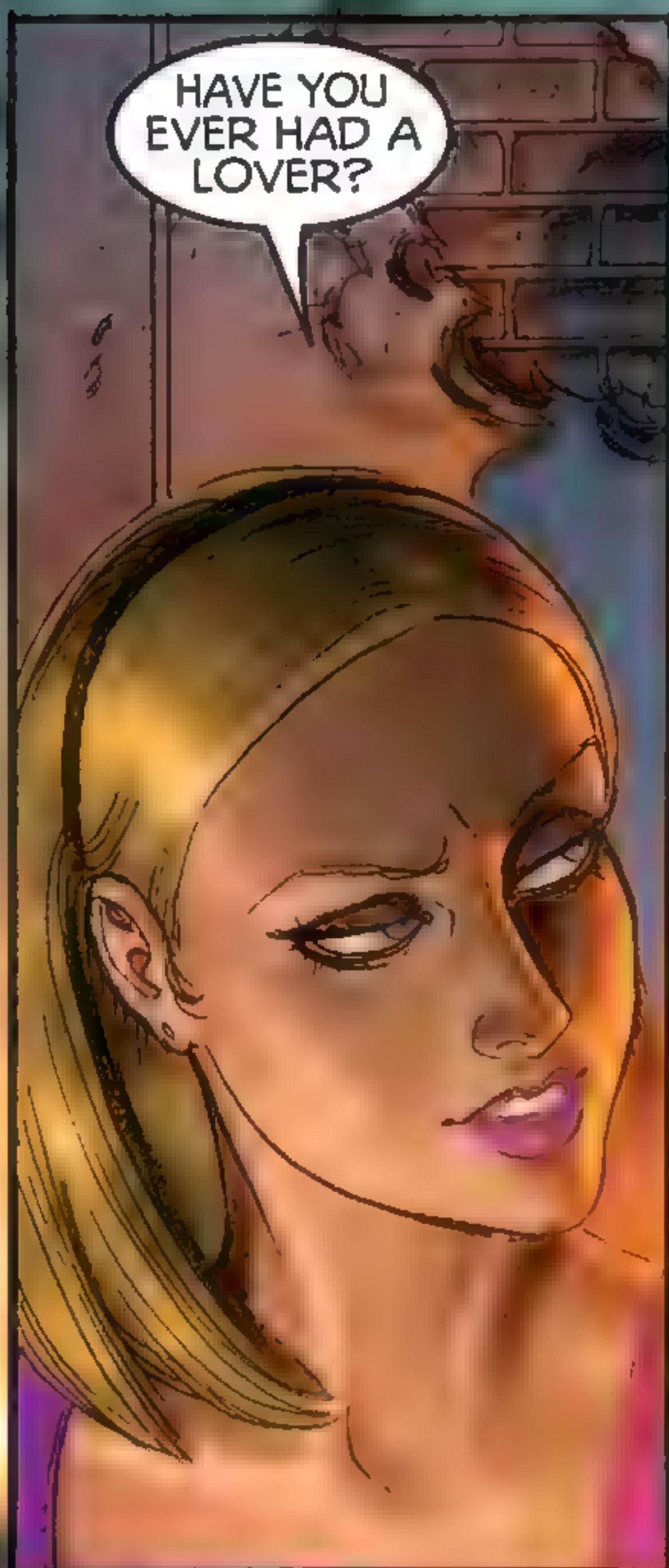
BECAUSE OF
THAT, I AM
HERE TO
KILL --



KILL!



KILL!



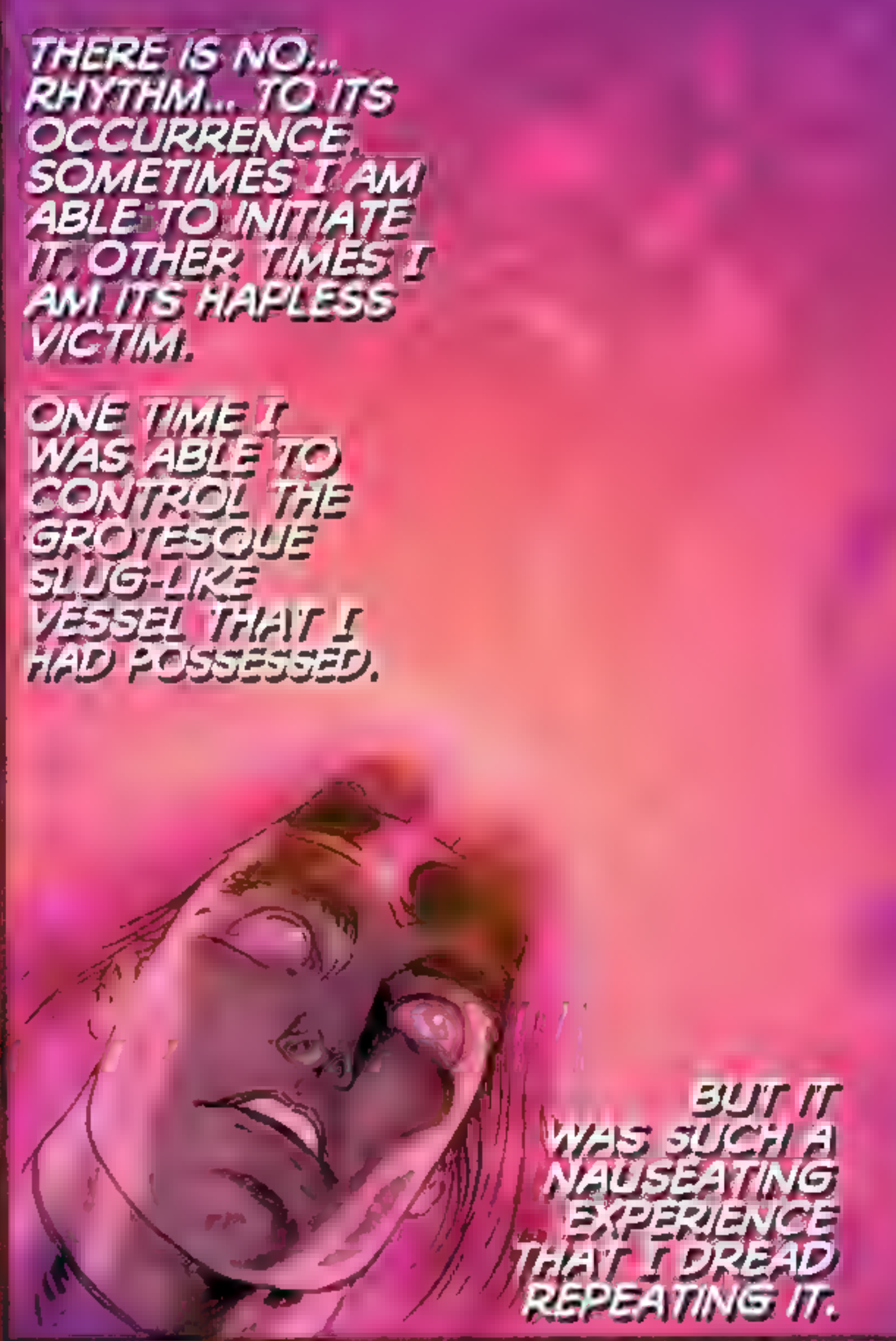


WHEN THE MARTIANS EXPERIMENTED ON YOU -- WHAT DID THEY DO?



IT WAS ACTUALLY A HUMAN DOCTOR --
-- A TRAITOR --
-- WORKING FOR THE MARTIANS, WHO TAMPERED WITH ME.

HE OPENED A DOOR IN MY PSYCHE THAT HAS SINCE ALLOWED ME TO REACH OUT, TOUCH AND ENTER A MARTIAN MIND.
ONLY A MARTIAN MIND, BECAUSE OF THEIR GREATER FACILITY WITH TELEPATHY.



THERE IS NO... RHYTHM... TO ITS OCCURRENCE. SOMETIMES I AM ABLE TO INITIATE IT, OTHER TIMES I AM ITS HAPLESS VICTIM.

ONE TIME I WAS ABLE TO CONTROL THE GROTESQUE SLUG-LIKE VESSEL THAT I HAD POSSESSED.

BUT IT WAS SUCH A NAUSEATING EXPERIENCE THAT I DREAD REPEATING IT.



THAT'S SOME SCAR.



THAT'S WHY I WEAR THIS.
I DON'T LIKE TO BE REMINDED OF IT.



MAYBE... I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW...

...BUT MAYBE YOU COULD USE THIS ABILITY OF YOURS TO TOUCH -- TO CONNECT WITH -- A MARTIAN MIND AND BRING THIS WAR TO AN END?

FIND SOME NEW PEACE THROUGH A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF EACH PLANET'S PEOPLE...



DO YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I EXTENDED MY HAND IN PEACE TO A MARTIAN?





THE THIRD
TRIPOD!



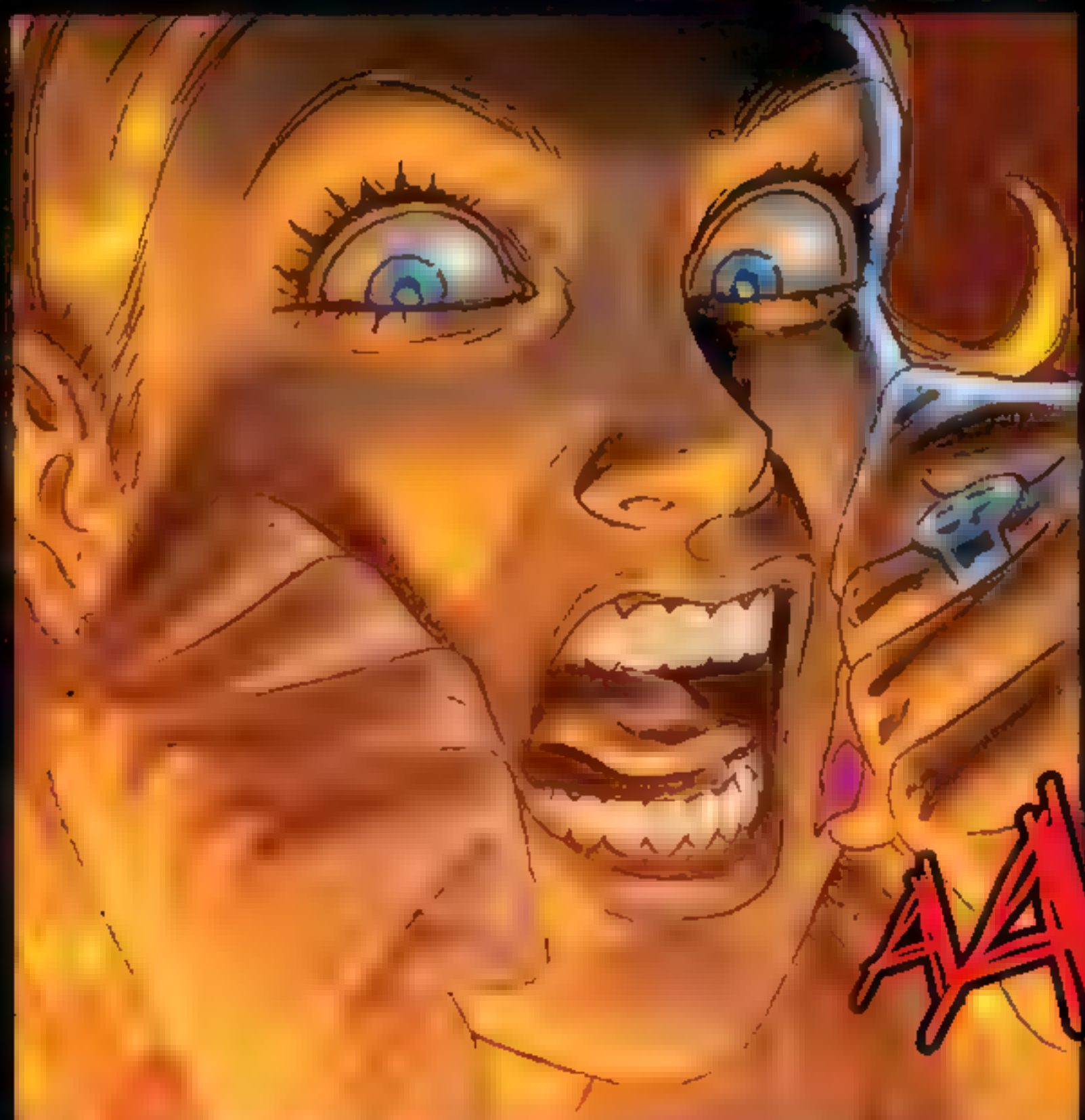
ZZZZZZ



BLAM
BLAM

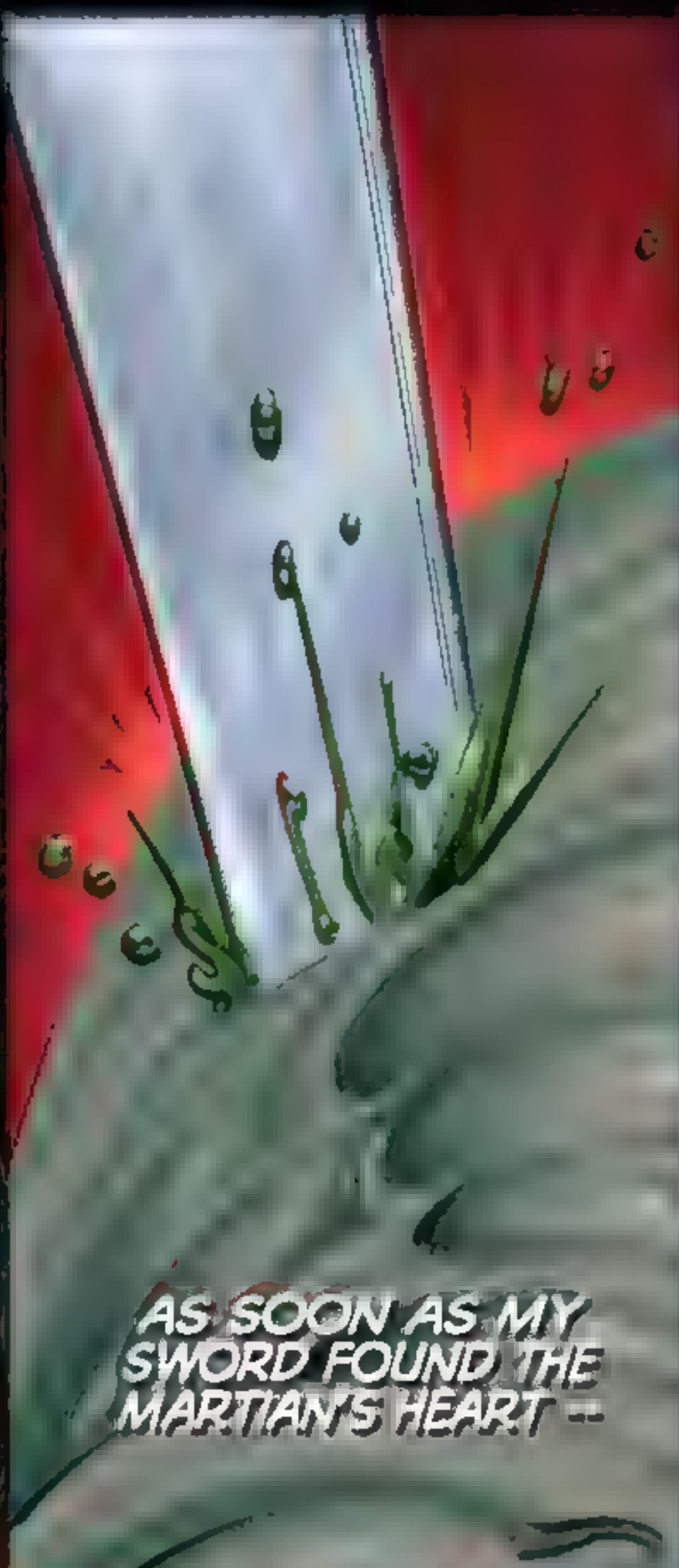
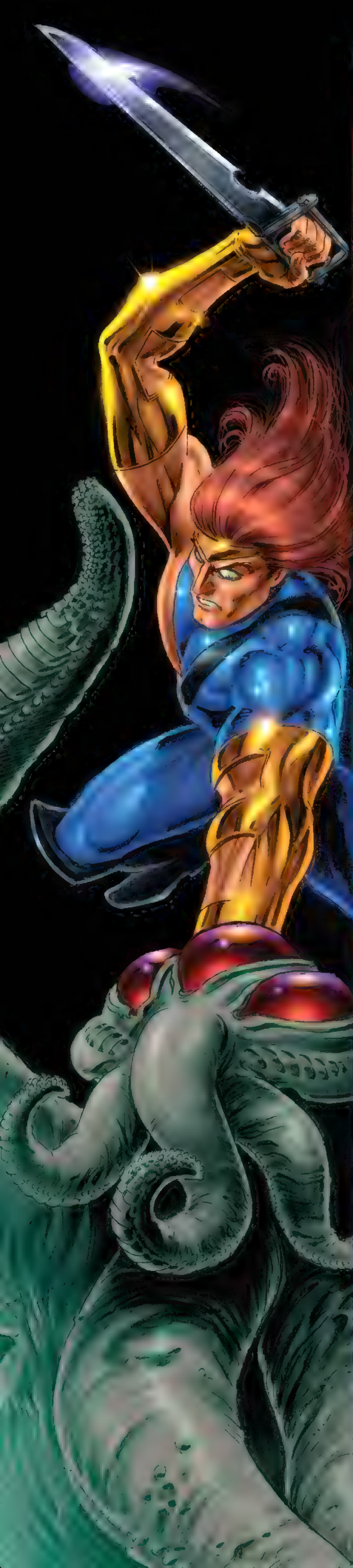


CRASH

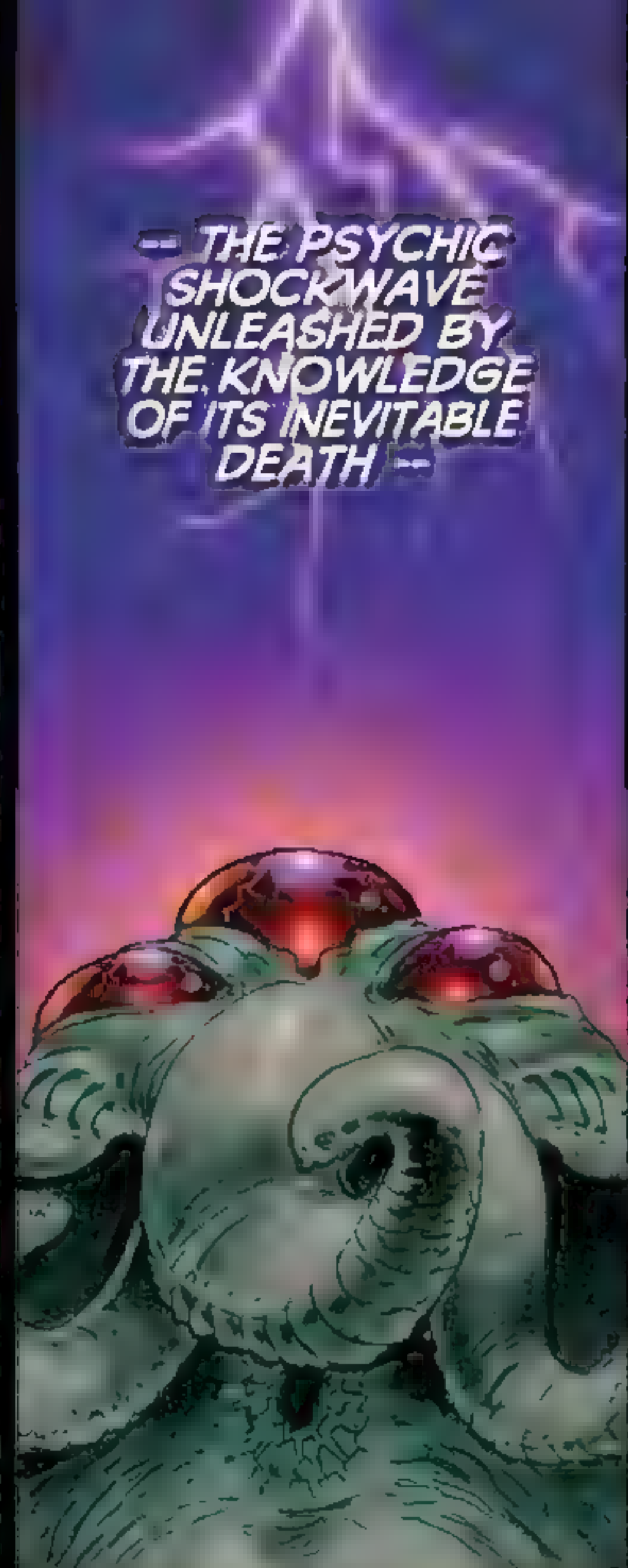


AAAAA!





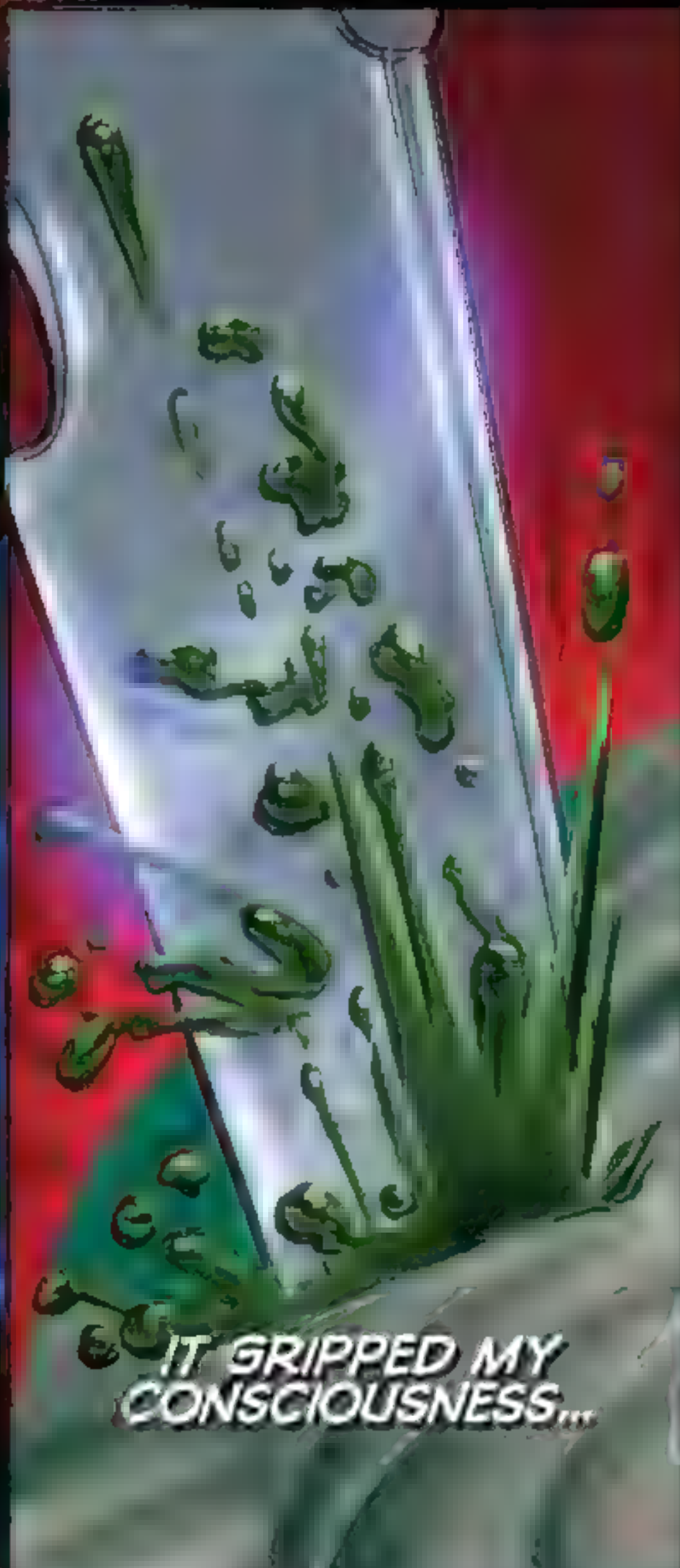
AS SOON AS MY
SWORD FOUND THE
MARTIAN'S HEART --



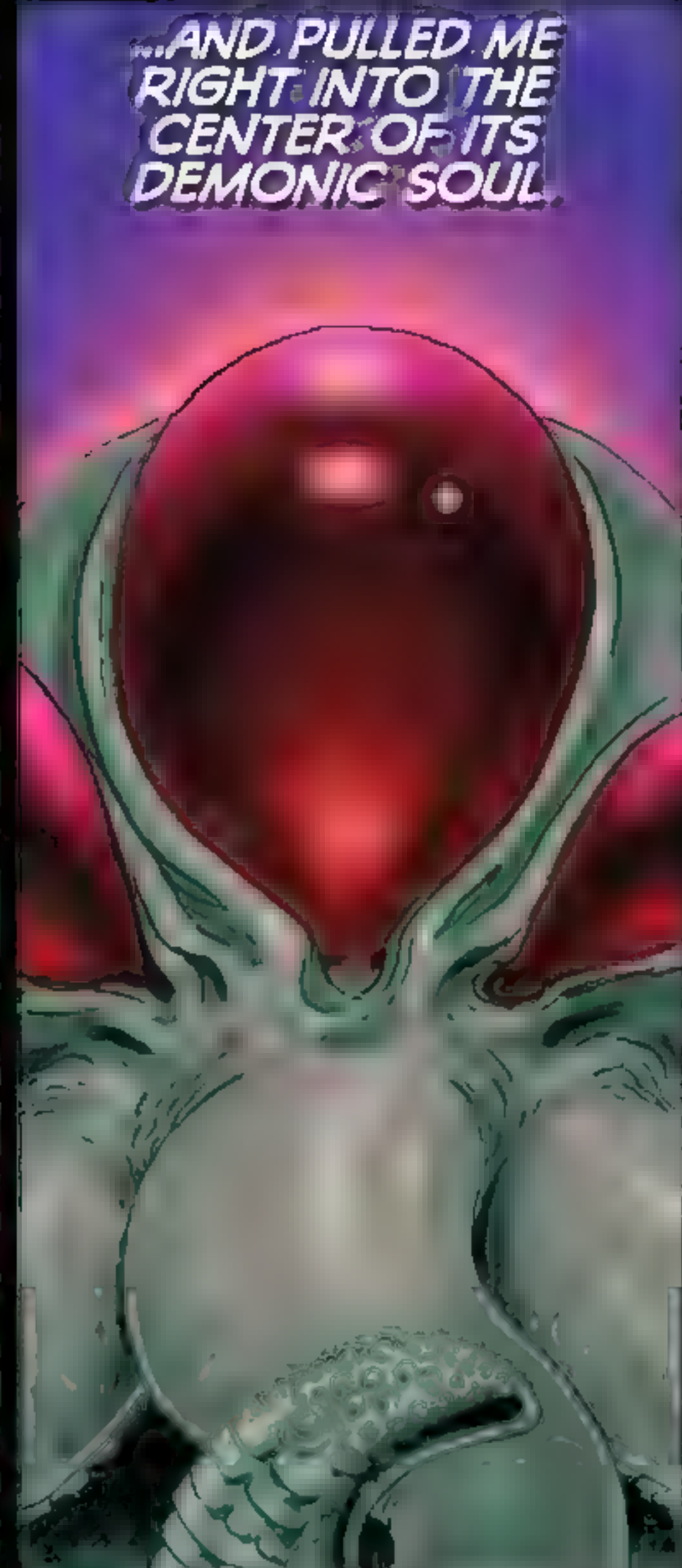
-- THE PSYCHIC
SHOCKWAVE
UNLEASHED BY
THE KNOWLEDGE
OF ITS INEVITABLE
DEATH --



-- SHOT THROUGH
ME LIKE A BOLT
OF LIGHTNING.



IT GRIPPED MY
CONSCIOUSNESS...



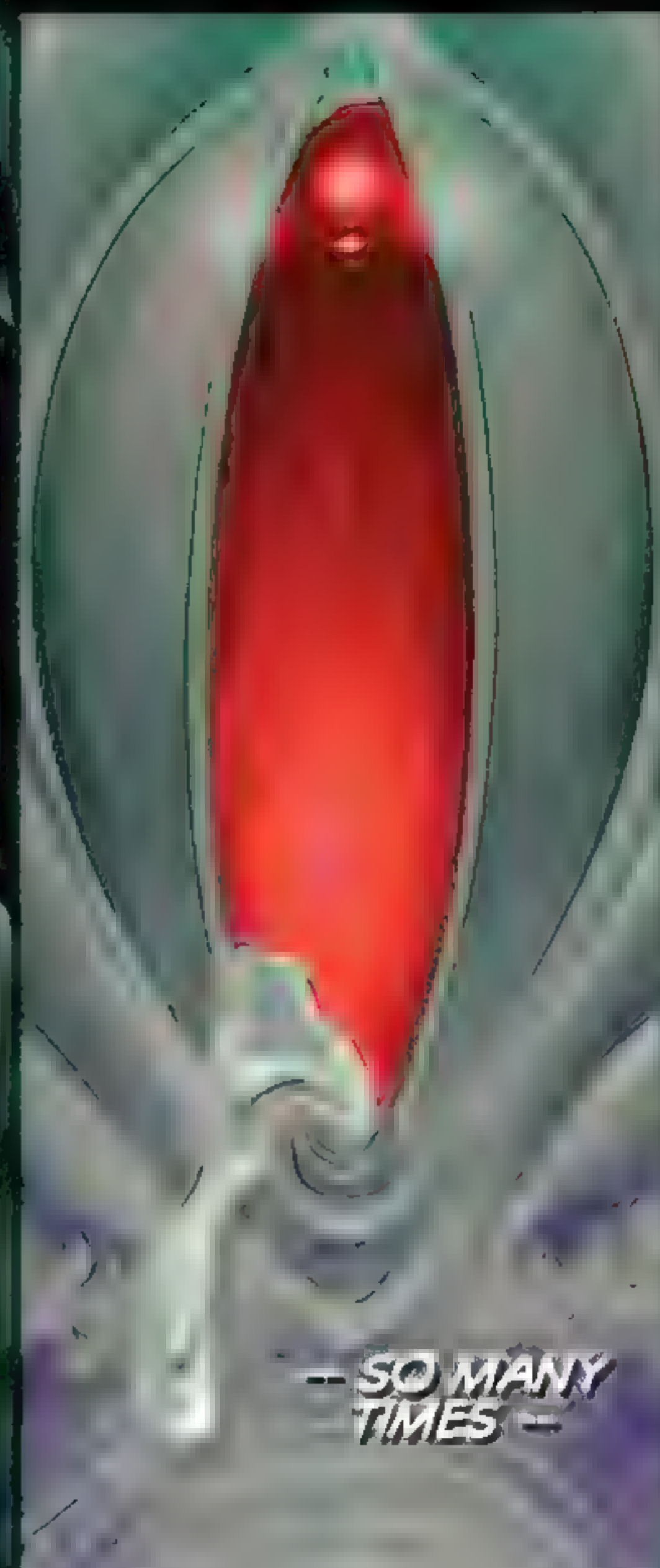
...AND PULLED ME
RIGHT INTO THE
CENTER OF ITS
DEMONIC SOUL.



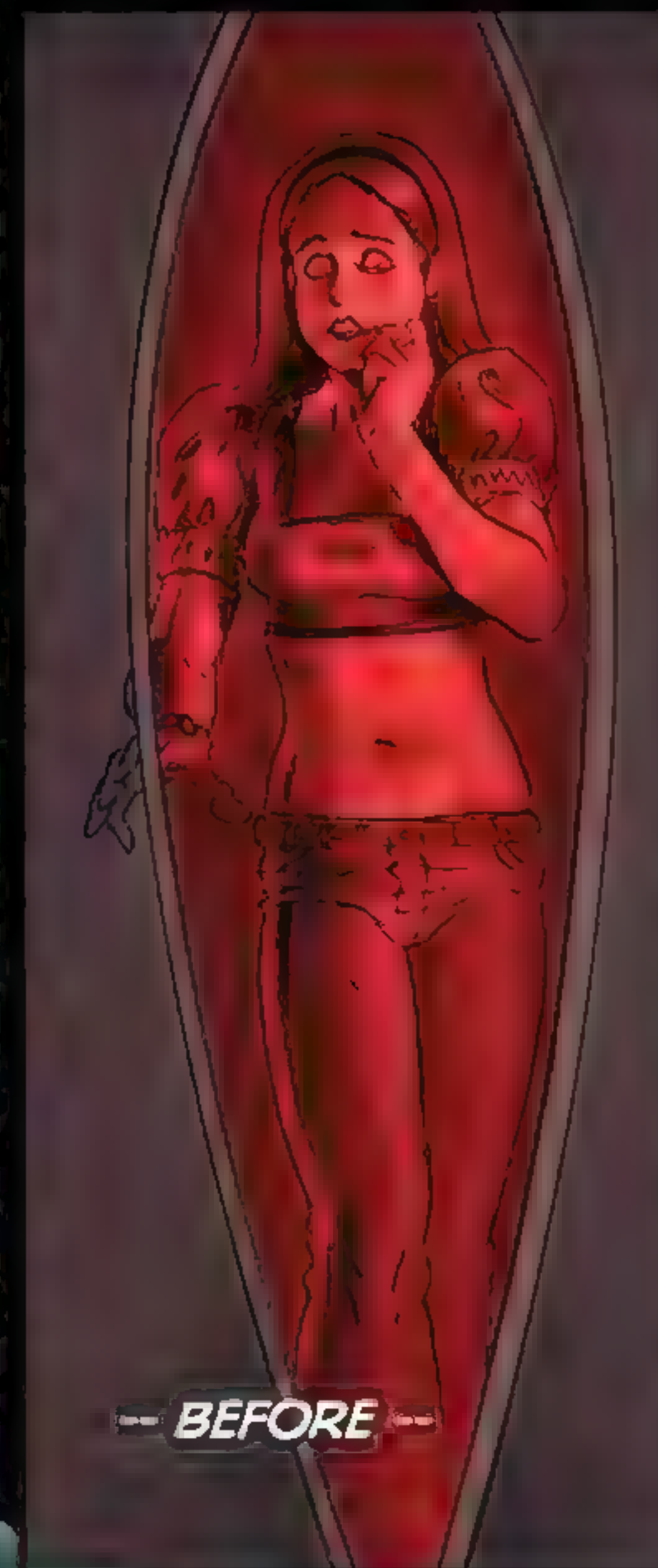
IT WAS DYING, AND
I WAS GOING ALONG
FOR THE RIDE --



-- JUST AS
I HAD --



-- SO MANY
TIMES --



-- BEFORE --



WITH THE MARTIAN'S DEATH RATTLE, I WAS BACK IN MY OWN BODY.

ARE YOU OKAY?

WHAT IS THAT THING?

THAT -- IS A MARTIAN.

OHMIGOD...
->GASP->...Y-YOU WERE TELLING THE TRUTH. YOU SAID-- THE OTHER TUBES--

ALL WRECKED. YOURS WAS THE ONLY ONE STILL WORKING.



NOOOO...

EVERY NOW AND AGAIN YOU GET A GOOD LOOK AROUND YOU, EVERYTHING COMES INTO PERFECT FOCUS, AND YOU REALIZE THAT YOU ARE NOT WHERE YOU WANT TO BE.

AND -- I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE. THIS IS NOT MY WORLD.

YOU CAN'T GO BACK -- THIS IS IT!



NO! I DON'T BELONG HERE! PUT ME BACK IN THE TUBE! YOU SAID IT WAS STILL WORKING -- PUT ME BACK!

BUT -- THAT THING IS ALMOST FIFTY YEARS OLD -- WHO KNOWS HOW LONG IT'LL WORK. IT MIGHT KILL YOU!

I DON'T CARE! JUST BRING ME BACK TO IT! IT'S MY LIFE -- MY CHOICE!

YOU BELIEVE IN FREEDOM, DON'T YOU?

SHE CRIED HERSELF TO SLEEP
AS I LOST TRACK OF MYSELF
STARING INTO THE FIRE. IT
WAS THE LONGEST NIGHT I
HAD FACED IN A LONG TIME.



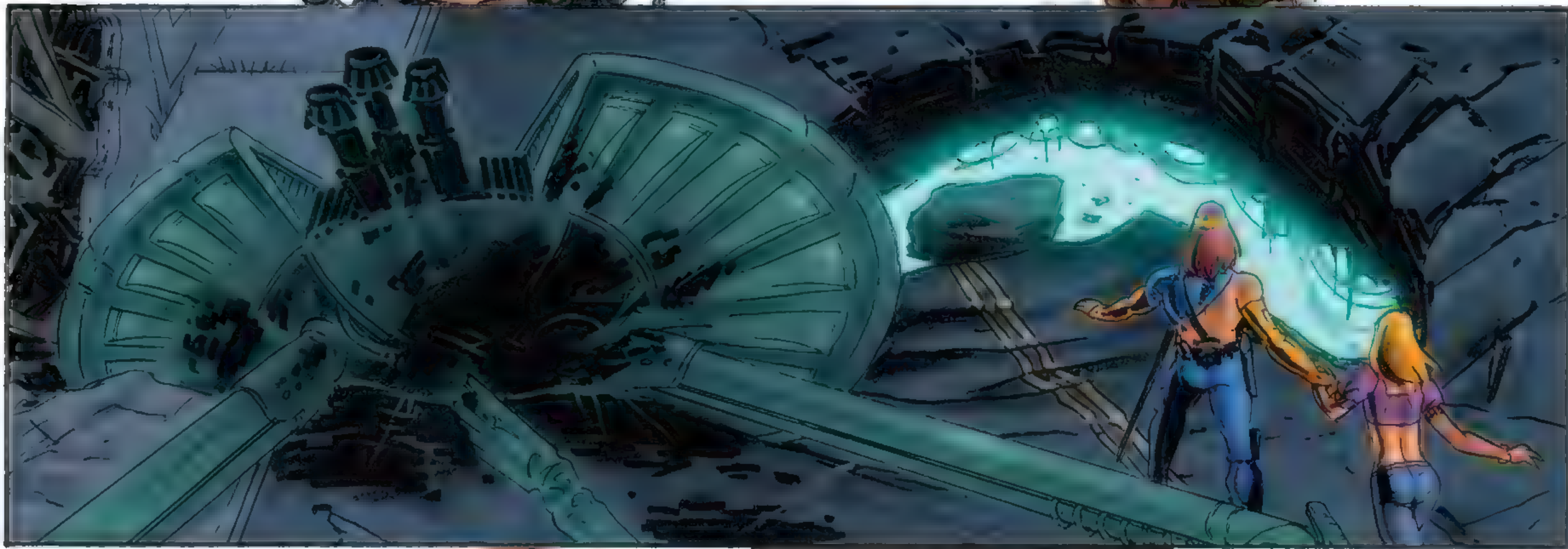
BY DAWN'S
EARLY LIGHT I
HAD MADE UP MY
MIND... SO I TOOK
HER BACK TO THE
CRADLE OF HER
EXPECTATIONS.



WHAT?!
THAT DUMB
GIRL MUST'VE PUT
A SPELL ON YOU!
WE HAVE TO GO
BACK AND GET
HER!



WHAT IF
SOMEONE ELSE
OR -- EVEN WORSE --
THE MARTIANS FIND
THAT LAB? WE'LL
BE DOING HER A
FAVOR --



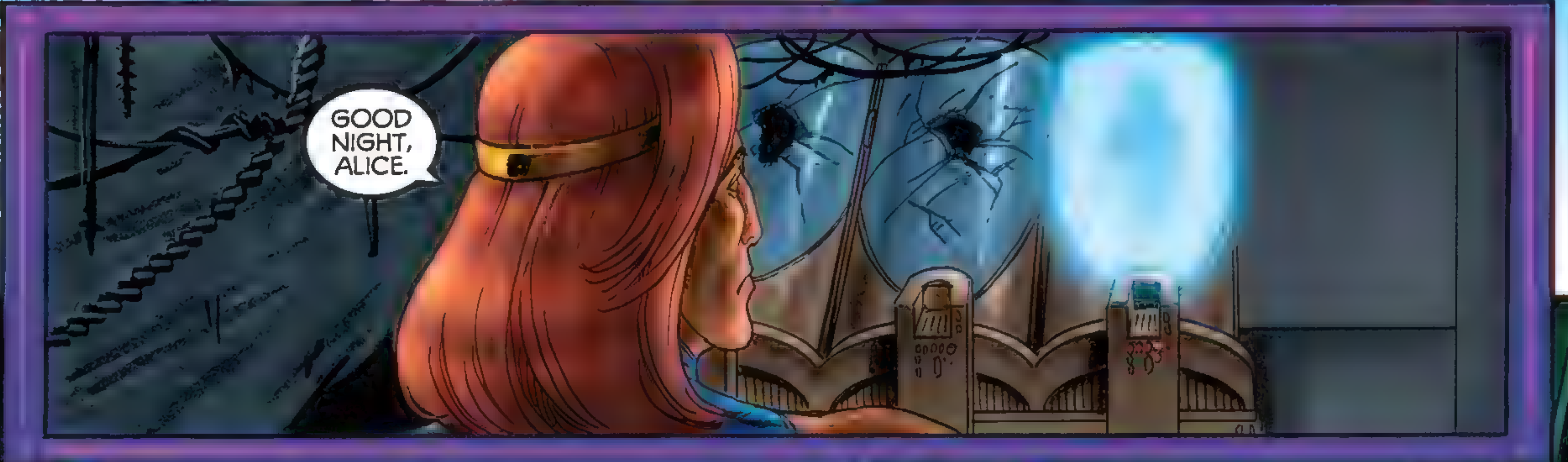
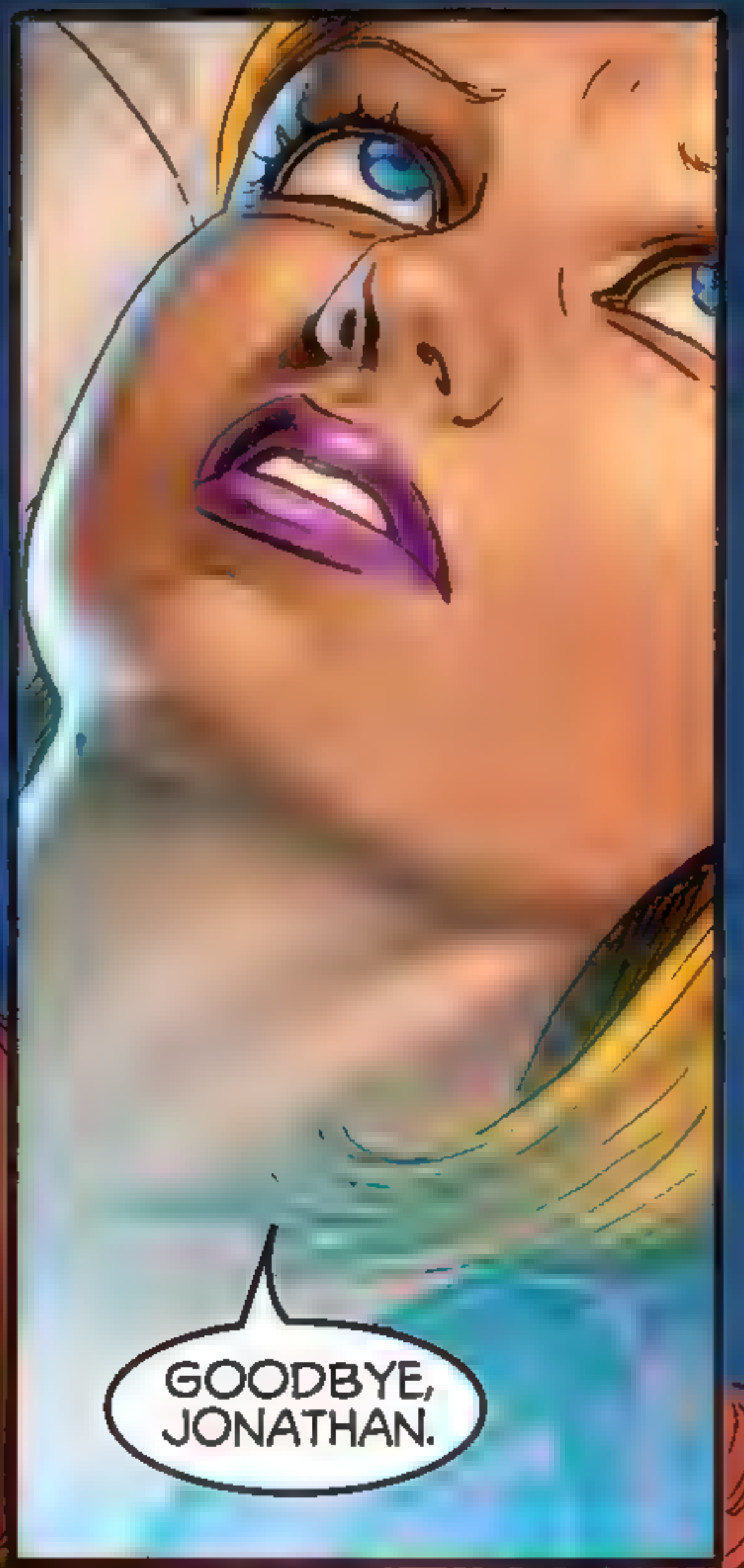
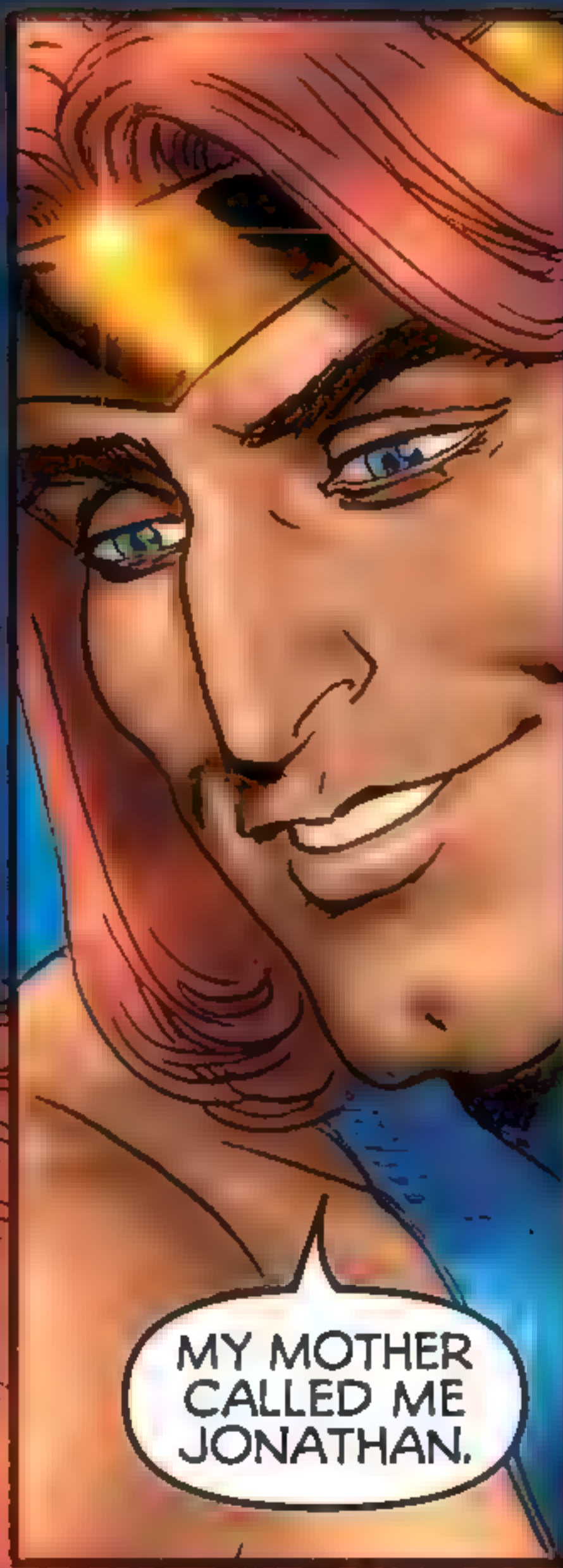
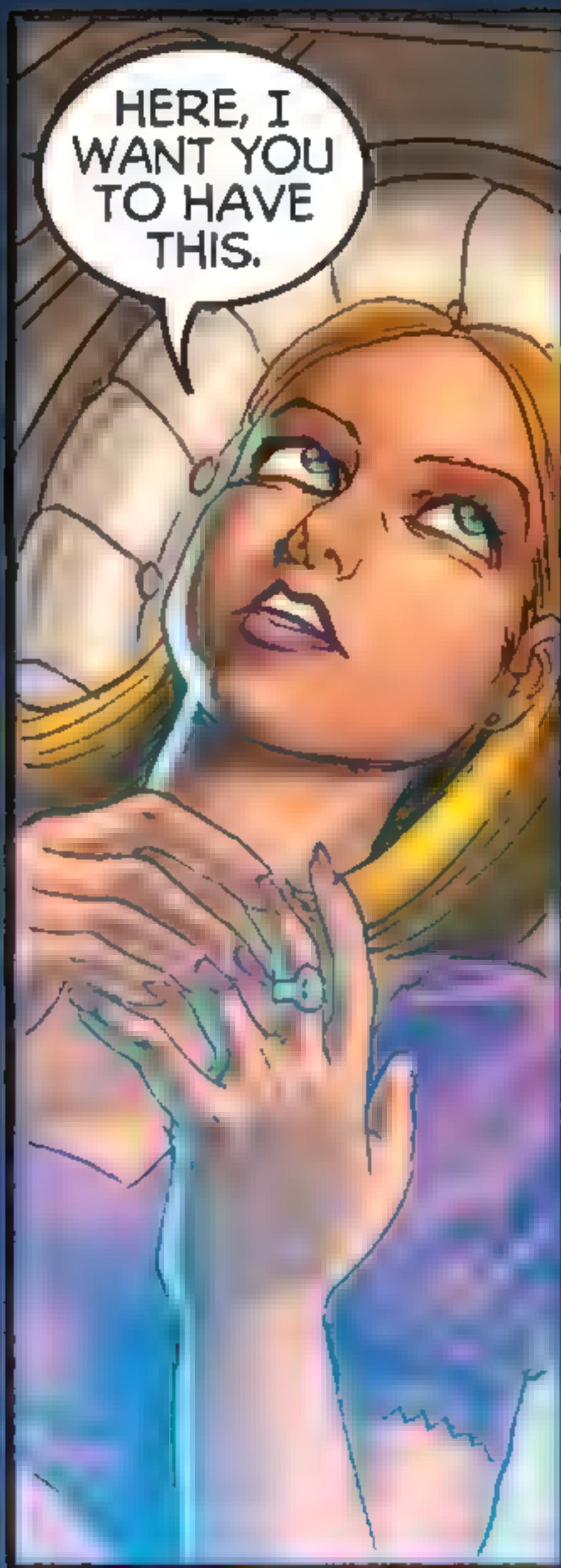
NO -- IF WE'RE GOING TO BE FREE,
THEN WE MUST RESPECT THE
FREEDOM OF OTHERS. HER LIFE
IS HERS, AND HERS ALONE --
AND SO ARE HER
CHOICES.

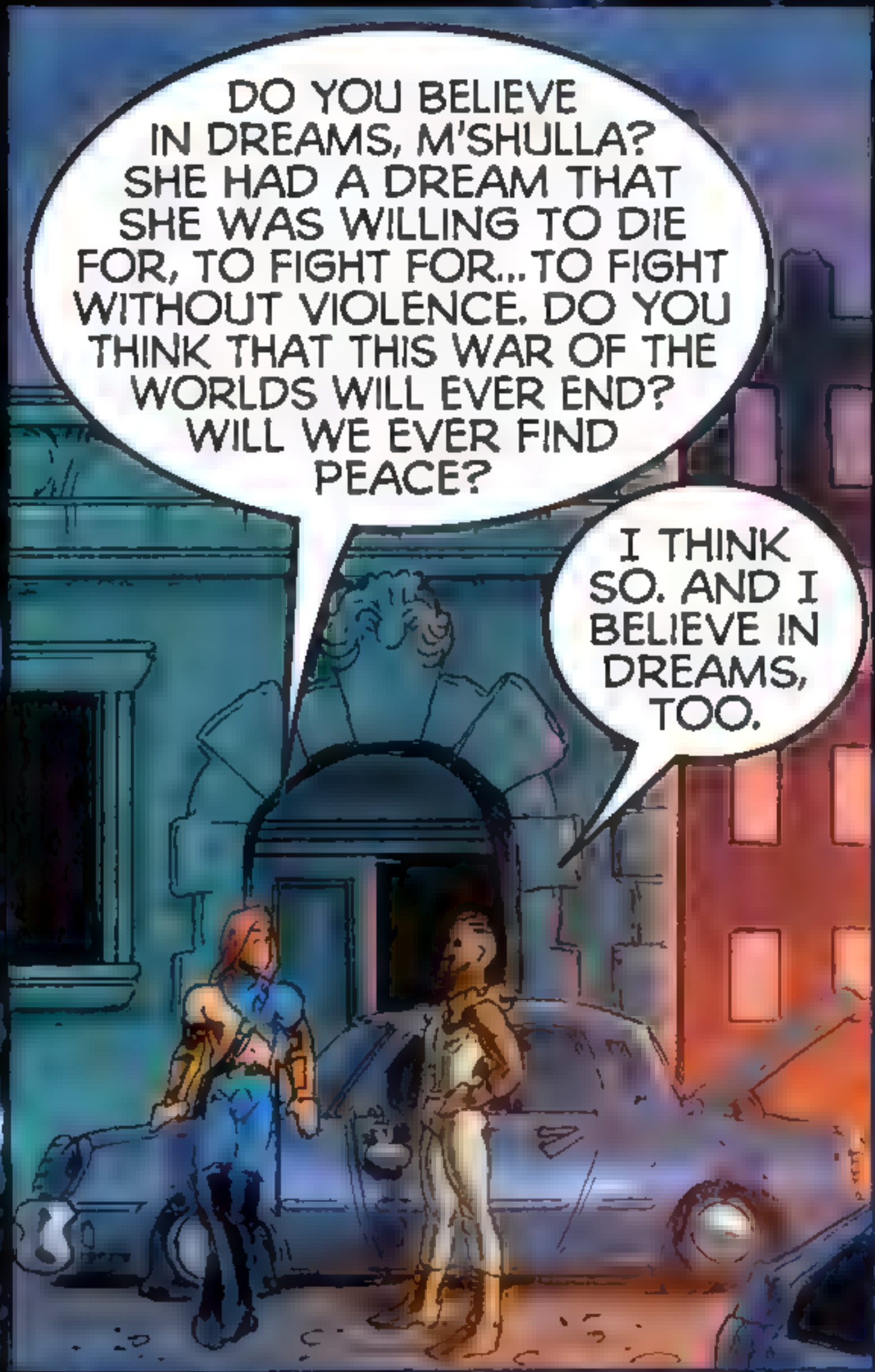
M'SHULLA, I
WANT EARTH TO BE
FREE -- AND NOT JUST
FROM THE MARTIANS.
AFTER WHAT THIS WORLD
HAS BEEN THROUGH,
I THINK WE ALL
DESERVE IT.



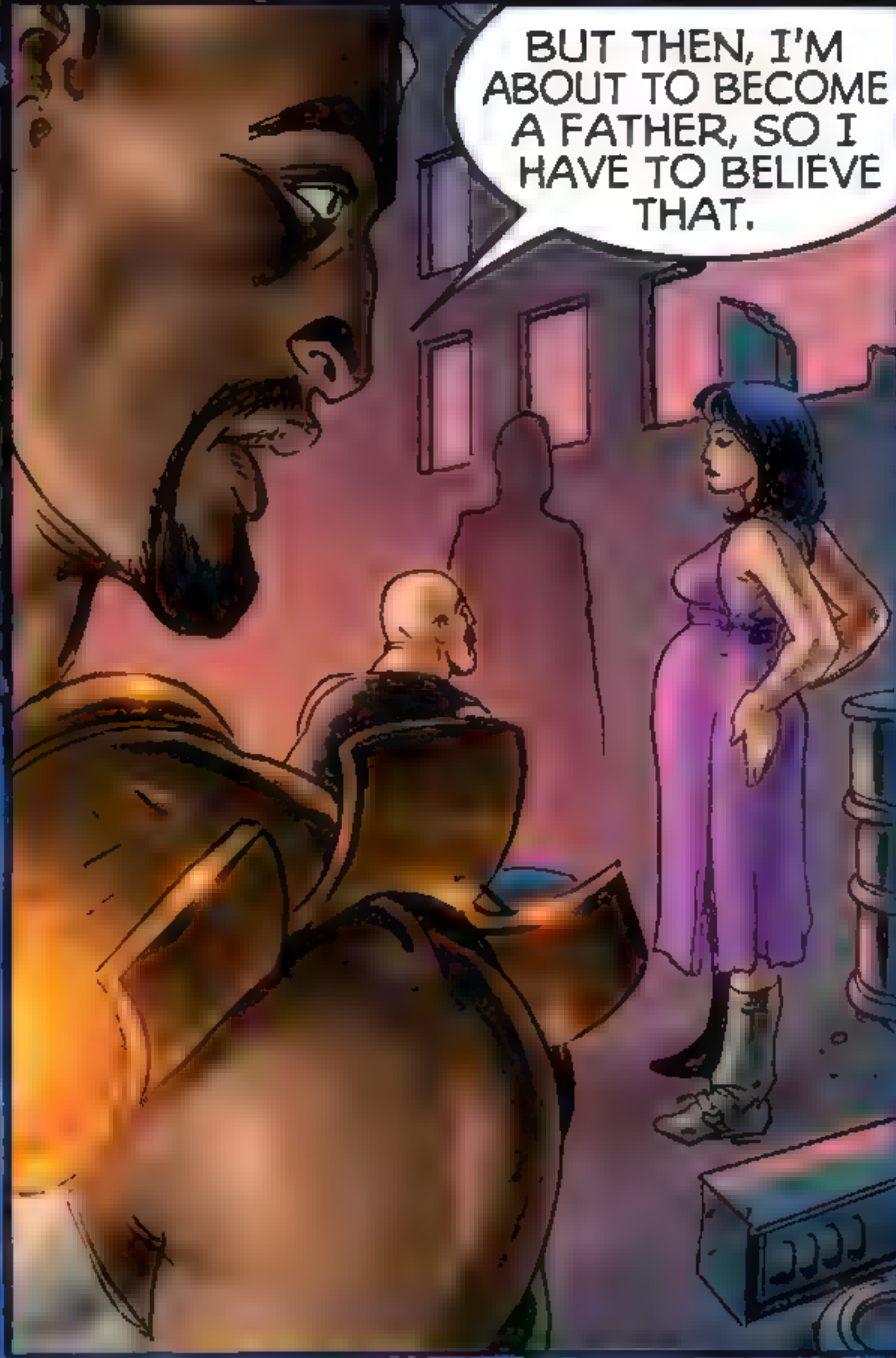
I LED HER BACK TO HER
TUBE AND LAID HER
BACK WHERE I HAD
FOUND HER.
EVERYTHING
SEEMED TO WORK,
SO...







I THINK SO. AND I BELIEVE IN DREAMS, TOO.



BUT THEN, I'M ABOUT TO BECOME A FATHER, SO I HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT.



HOW ABOUT YOU, TOUGH GUY?

I DON'T KNOW. THERE'S A LOT OF HATE IN THIS WORLD. DEFEATING THAT MAY BE TOUGHER THAN THE MARTIANS.

M'SHULLA... IF WE EVER GET TO MARS, IF WE GET TO TAKE THE WAR BACK TO THEIR HOMELAND -- I CAN COUNT ON YOU TO BE BY MY SIDE, RIGHT?



Uh, SURE... YEAH. WOW.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?



IN ALL OF OUR YEARS OF FIGHTING TOGETHER, AND ALL OF THE TIMES I'VE HEARD YOU TALK ABOUT GOING TO MARS, I'VE NEVER ONCE HEARD YOU USE THE WORD "IF"...



WELL...



...I GUESS THERE'S A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING.



FIN



CLAWS



sketchbook

At the end of the first *Claws* collection, I pointed out what a great collaborative team we had, and said that we'd have to do it again sometime. Ta-da — *Claws 2*. I always have a great time animating Wolverine and the Black Cat. I believe that it was Jimmy Palmiotti's idea to send them into the future so that they could meet Killraven, another one of my favorite Marvel characters.

WOLVERINE & THE BLACK CAT

claws

Cover concepts for issue #1.

Claws 2 picks up minutes after the end of the last issue of the first series. That cover showed Logan and the Black Cat about to dance. At one point, I wanted to show them right after they had “danced.” I really like the idea of Wolverine in a bloody tuxedo. I’ll have to do more with that someday.

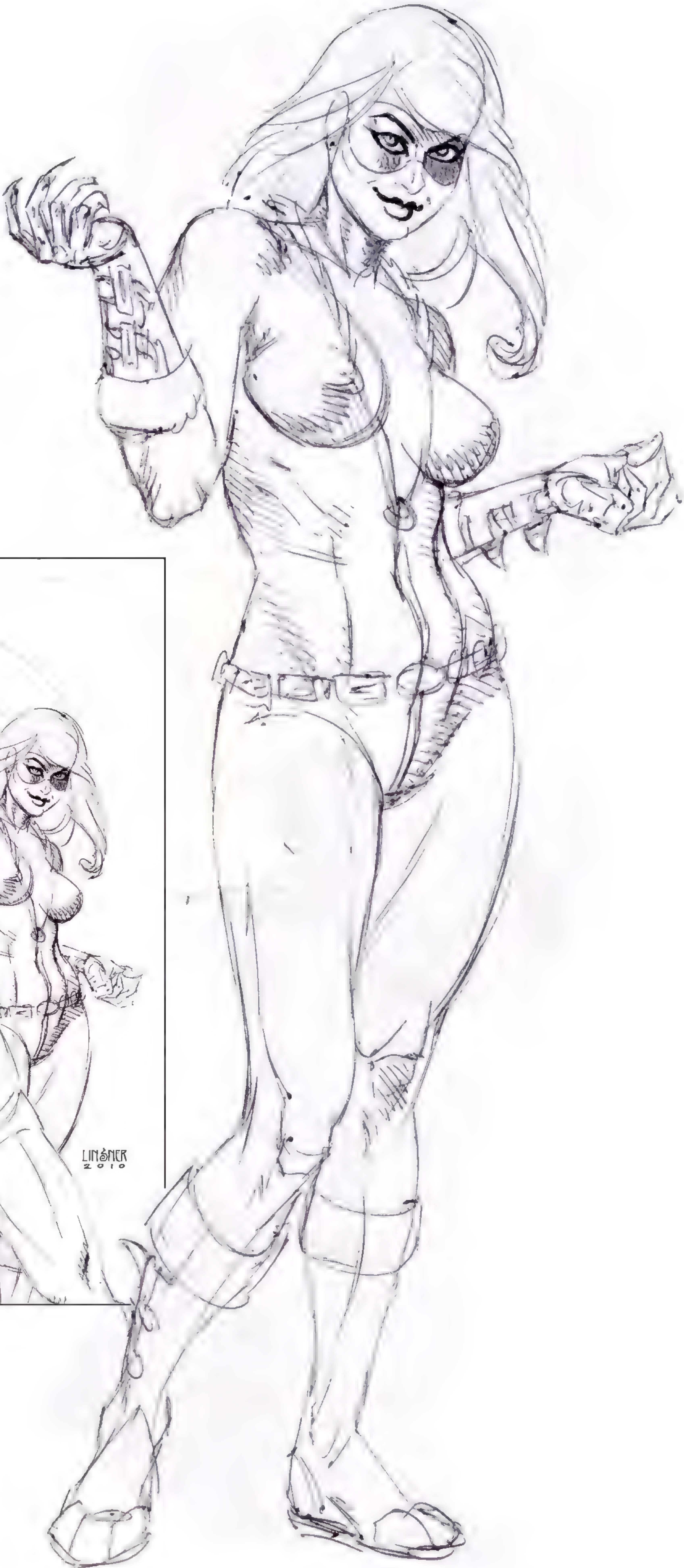


WOLVERINE & THE BLACK CAT

claws



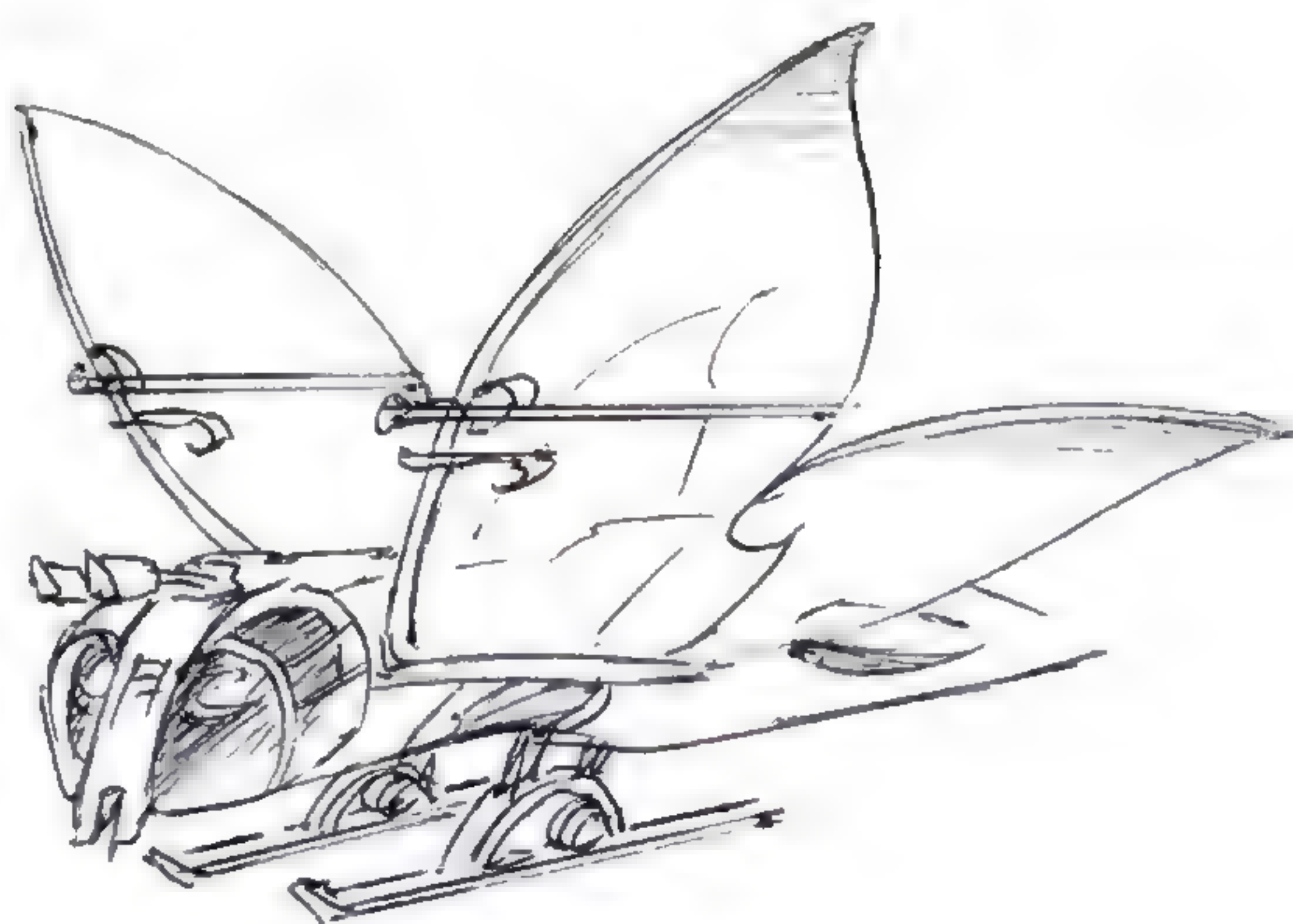
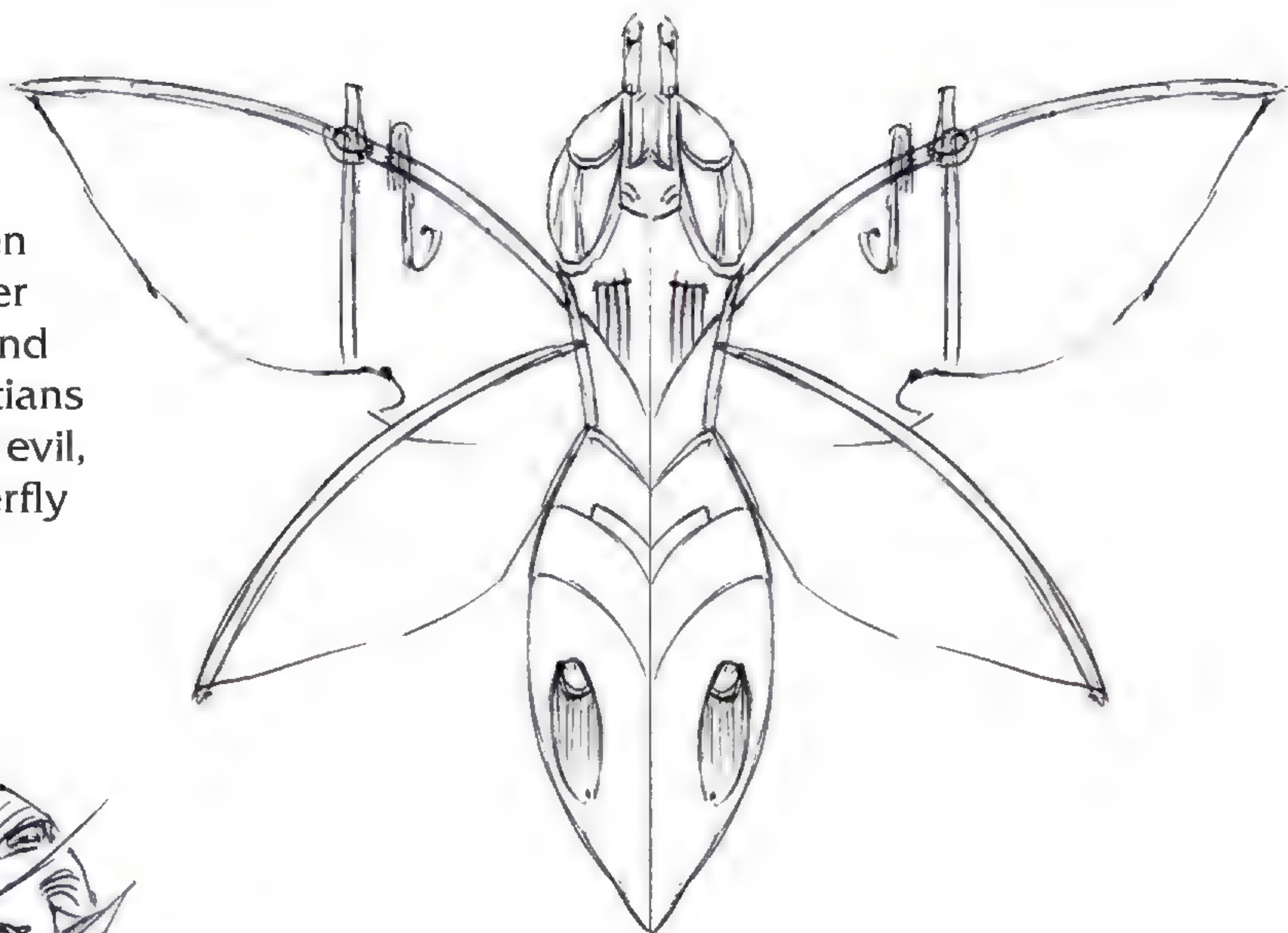
This time around I wanted to draw Black Cat's outfit a bit closer to what she usually wears, but the story didn't quite let that happen. She got swept away through time in her evening gown in the first issue. Oh well. I bent the rules a bit on the covers and showed her in her costume anyway. No one seemed to mind.



The cover coming together. Below is a rough mock-up slapped together in photoshop to try and get a feeling for the background. God bless photoshop! Anyone who uses an airbrush knows the tension you feel once the frisket goes down (frisket is used to mask off certain areas, almost like a stencil). You have to guess how everything will come together once the frisket comes off.

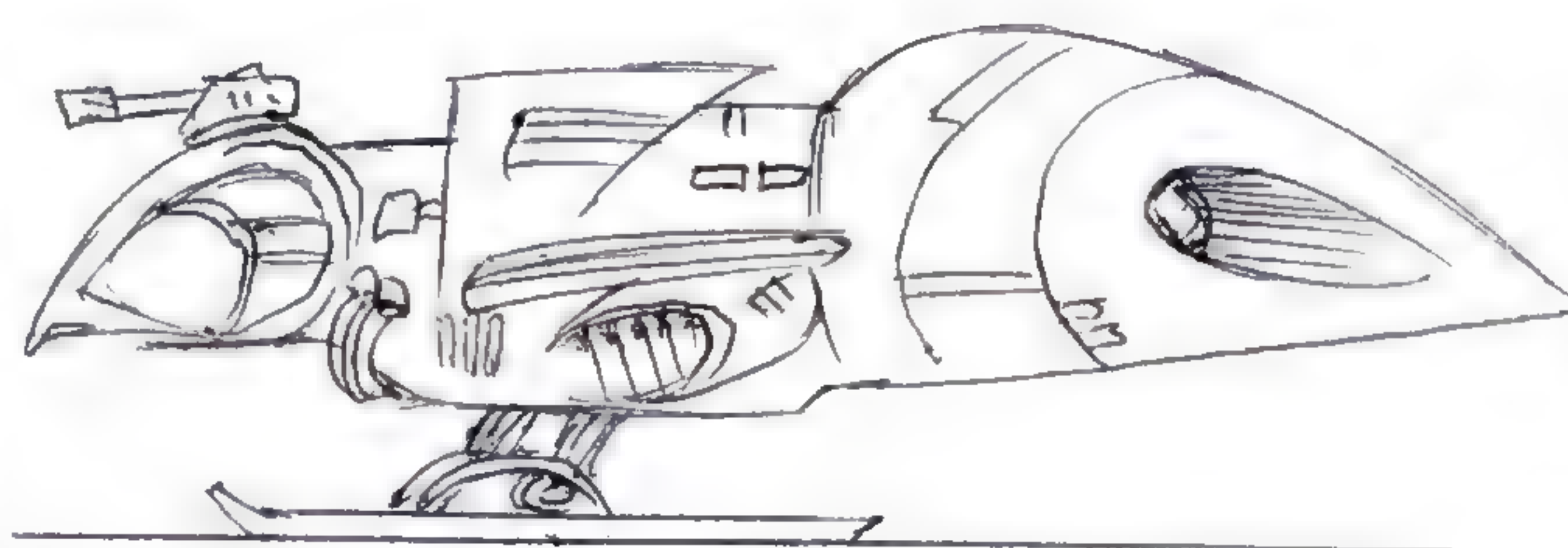


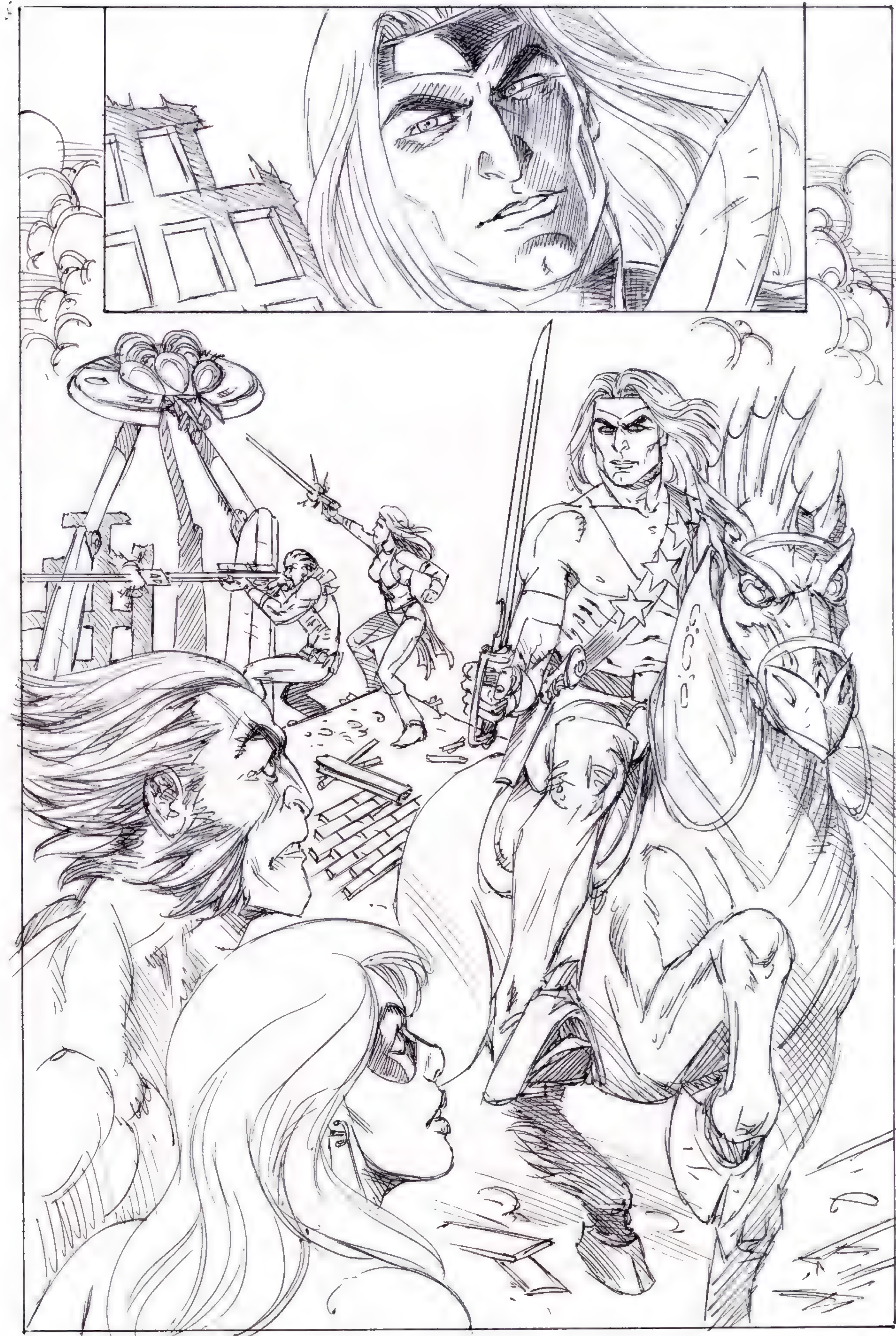
Civa, our stately alien beauty. I pictured her people as beautiful and butterfly-like. The Martians would be slug-like and evil, crushing out the butterfly people.



Civa -

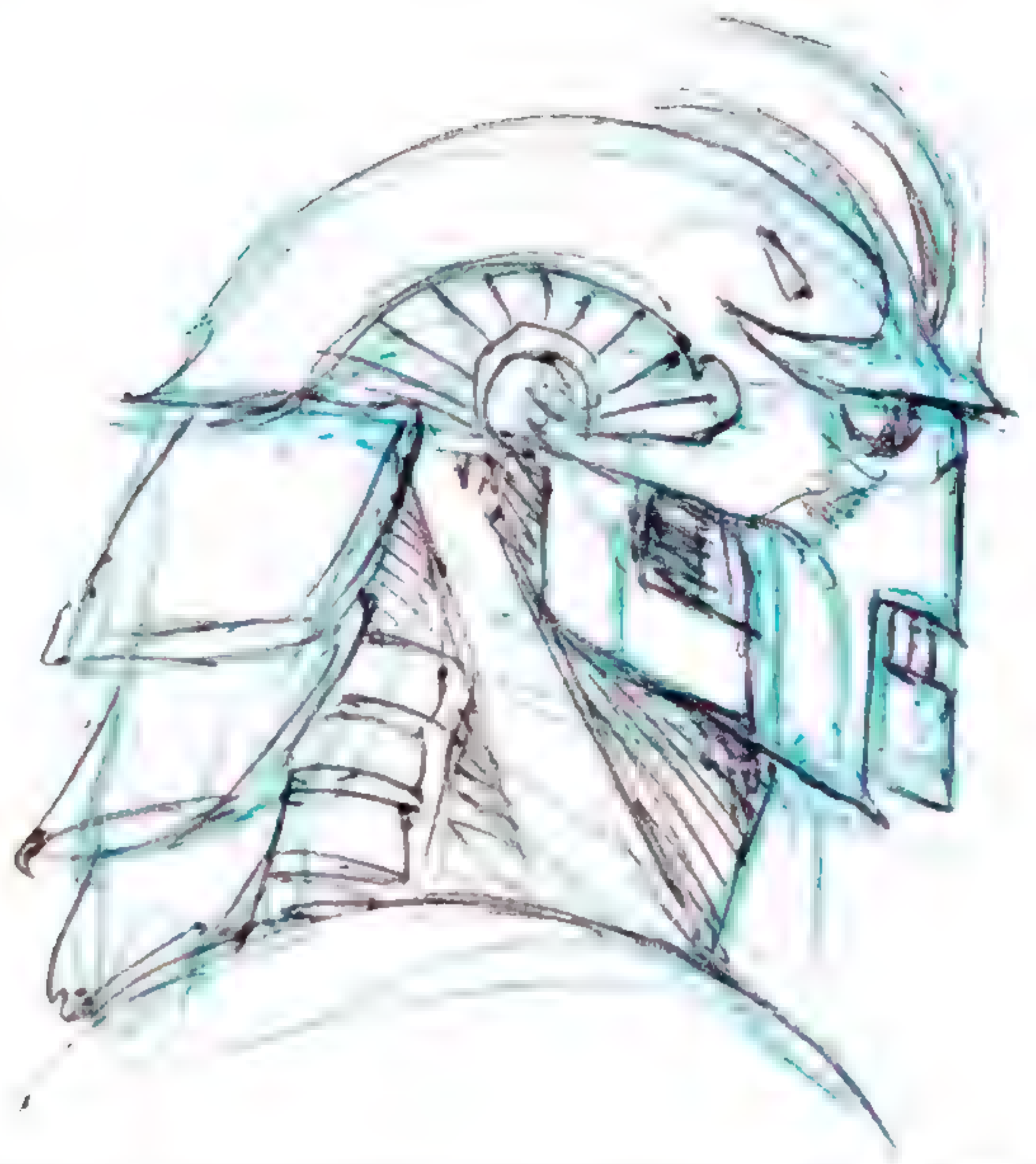
UNIONER
2010.

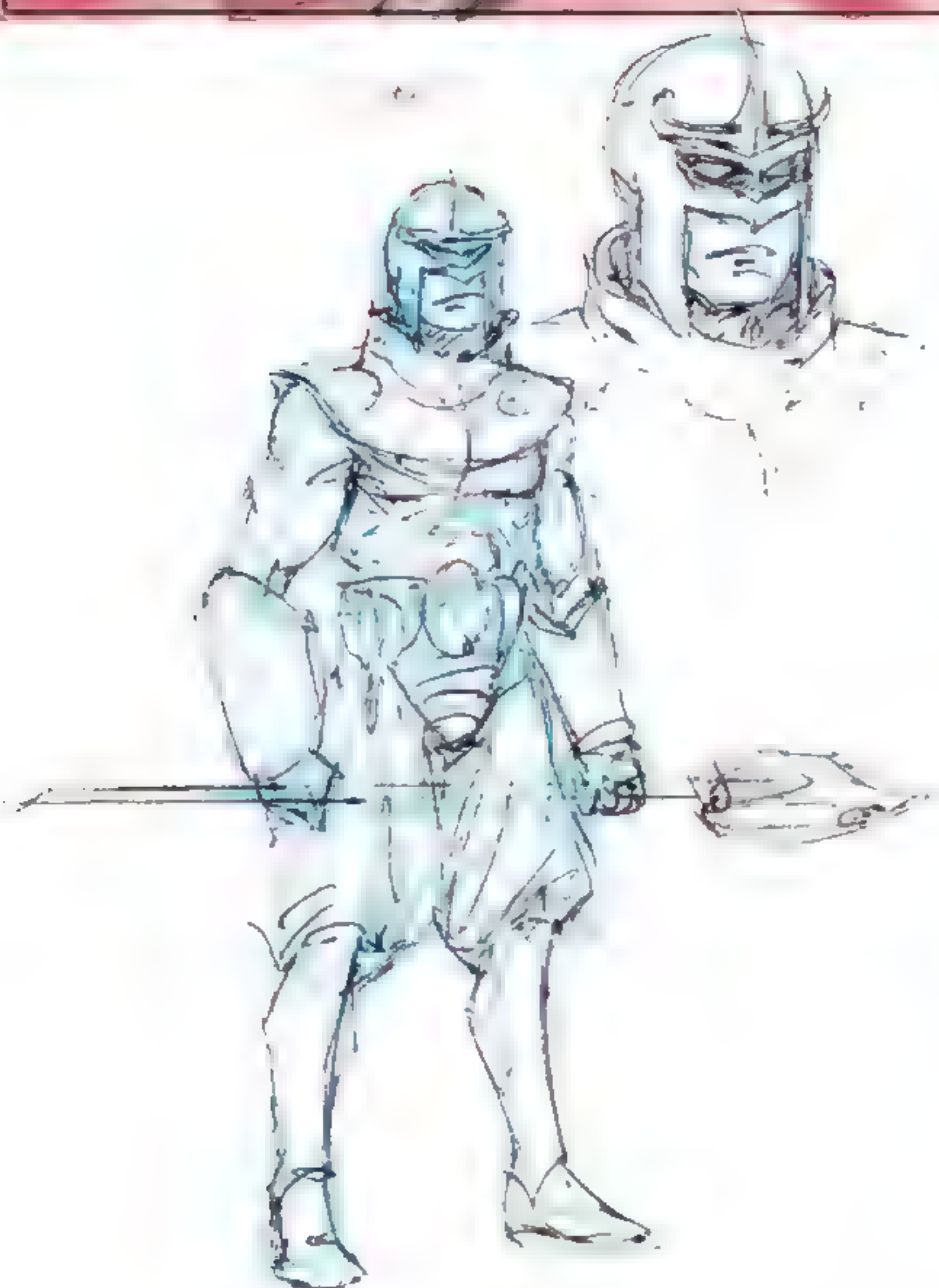


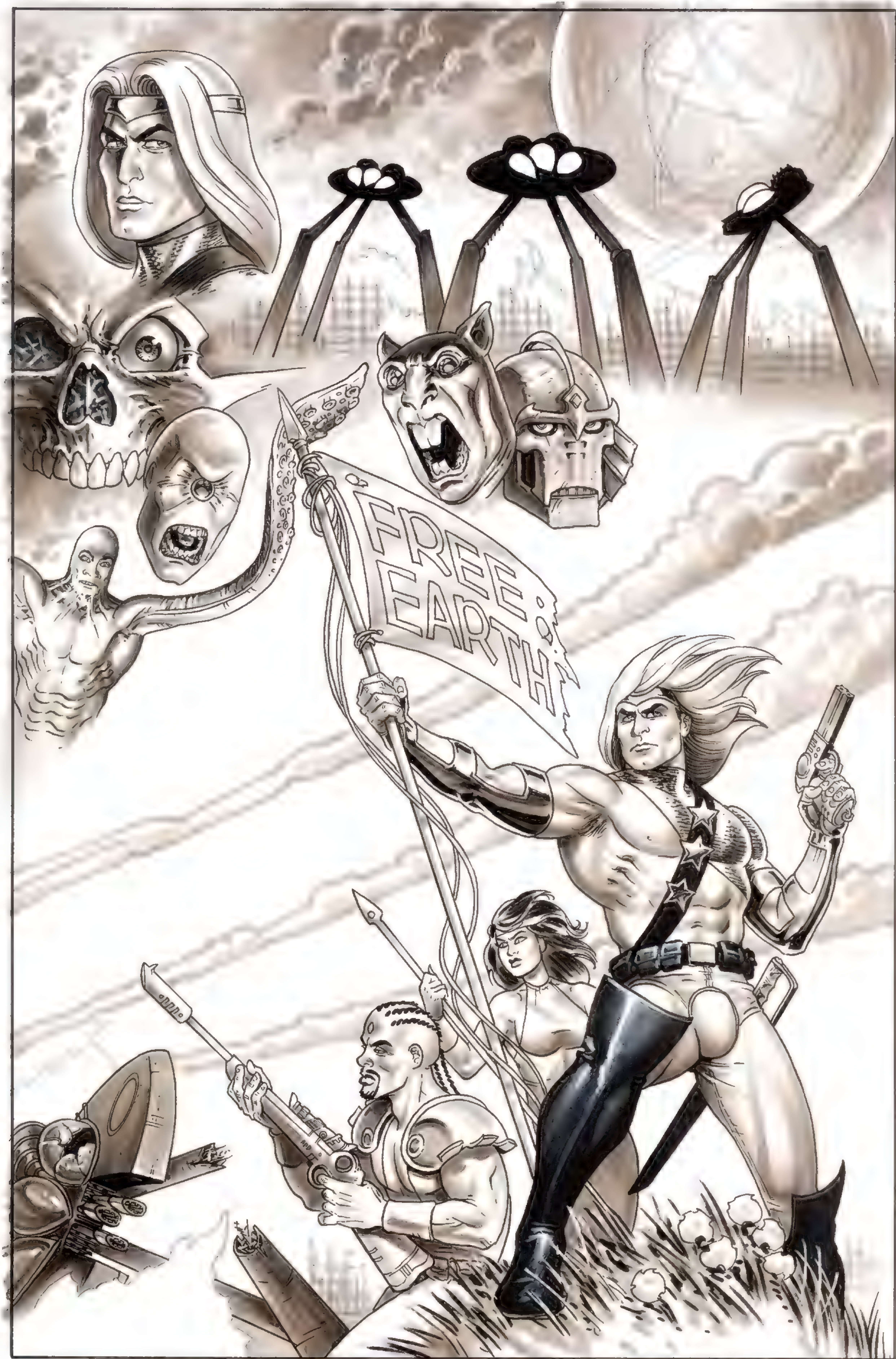


The original pencils for page 22. Not heroic enough. More background music! More drama!

Concepts for cover #2, and our main villain, Overlord Omega. I wanted to put my spin on the P. Craig Russell Overlord — a traitorous cyborg helping the Martians enslave humanity.



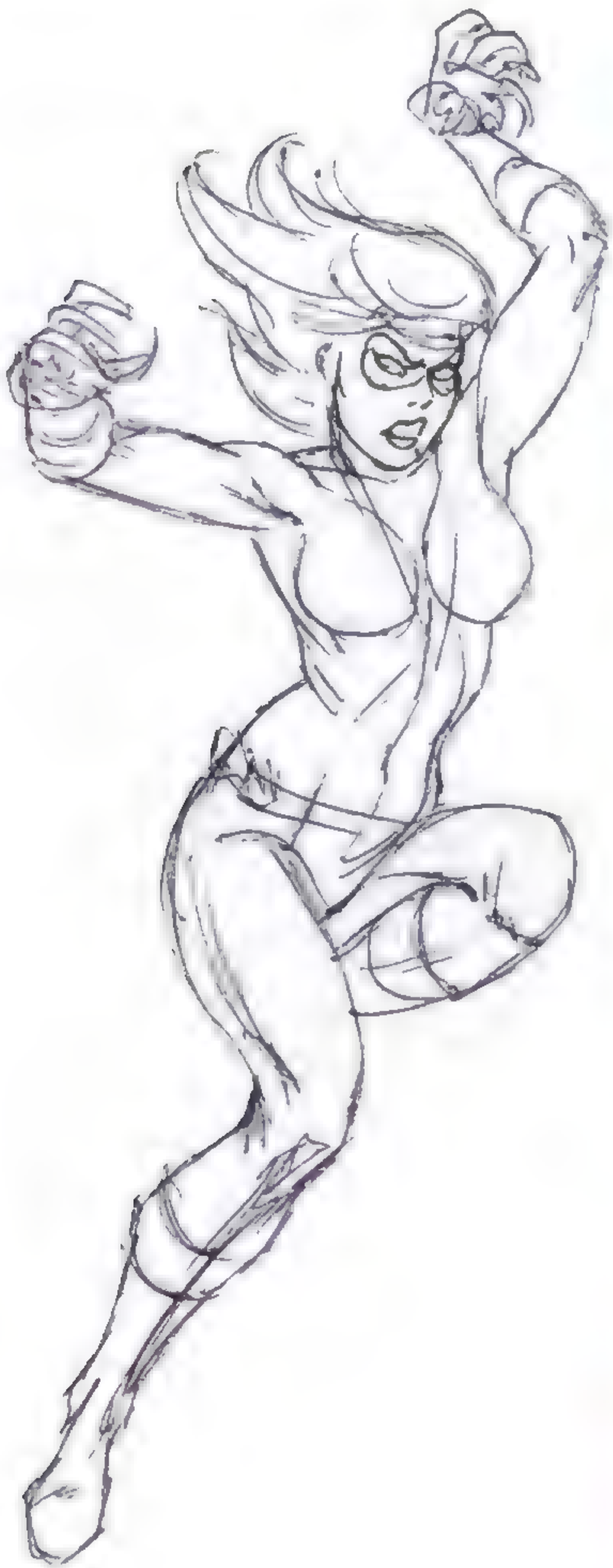




A personal favorite page. I always think of pages like this as guitar solos — a nice interlude where the art does the storytelling.

Cover concepts for #3.









Years ago I was lucky enough to write and draw a Killraven one-shot for Marvel Knights. Drawing him again was a total blast. I grew up loving that destroyed, post-apocalyptic, burnt-out city setting. Movies like *Mad Max* and *Escape From New York* feed my soul — they mean so much to me. Killraven is like a super hero dropped into that world. I would love do more with him at some point, if Marvel lets me.





The Black Cat & Wolverine. It has been a ton of fun, folks. If we do it again, we'll have to have them face off against Galactus. Can Logan make Galactus bleed? That's one I wanna see.

Thanks for reading —
Joe Linsner
September 2011



“Anything can happen in Claws, and anything will happen.”

— *ComicsBulletin.com*

When Wolverine and the Black Cat are forced to work in tandem, sparks are sure to fly!

Thrown together in battle against Arcade and the White Rabbit, their wild romance only intensified. But after putting down the duo, the clawed couple's victory celebration proved short-lived when the villains transported Wolverine and the Black Cat to a desolate future. With nowhere to run in an unfamiliar world, the rebel leader Killraven may be their only hope of survival. Can they make it home before their wild night out turns into a nightmare?

Collecting *Wolverine & Black Cat: Claws 2 #1-3* — written by Jimmy Palmiotti and Justin Gray, and illustrated by Joseph Michael Linsner — plus Linsner's 2001 *Killraven* one-shot.



MARVEL

PARENTAL ADVISORY

